THE EXPANSE™
ORIGINS

JAMES S.A. COREY

HALLIE LAMBERT • GEORGIA LEE • HUANG DANLAN
TRIONA FARRELL • JUAN USECHE

THE EXPANSE™ ORIGINS

BOOM! STUDIOS

THE EXPANSE ORIGINS™

BASED ON THE BOOKS BY
JAMES S.A. COREY

STORY BY
JAMES S.A. COREY
HALLIE LAMBERT
GEORGIA LEE

CHAPTER_001

JAMES HOLDEN

WRITTEN BY **HALLIE LAMBERT** AND **GEORGIA LEE**
ILLUSTRATED BY **HUANG DANLAN**
COLORED BY **TRIONA FARRELL**
LETTERED BY **JIM CAMPBELL**

CHAPTER_002

NAOMI NAGATA

WRITTEN BY **GEORGIA LEE**
ILLUSTRATED BY **HUANG DANLAN**
COLORED BY **TRIONA FARRELL**
LETTERED BY **JIM CAMPBELL**

CHAPTER_003

ALEX KAMAL

WRITTEN BY **HALLIE LAMBERT**
ILLUSTRATED BY **HUANG DANLAN**
COLORED BY **JUAN USECHE**
LETTERED BY **JIM CAMPBELL**

CHAPTER_004

AMOS BURTON

WRITTEN BY **GEORGIA LEE**
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CHAPTER_005

JOSEPHUS MILLER

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CHAPTER_001

JAMES HOLDEN

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN MY UNIFORM.

SOME ARE BORN KNOWING WHO THEY ARE AND WILL BE.

SOME SEARCH THE SYSTEM FOR IT...

AND SOME NEVER FIND THEIR WAY...

JAMES HOLDEN. HE ALWAYS HAD WHAT IT TAKES. MOXIE, INSTINCT, HEART.

IT JUST TOOK HIM A WHILE TO FIND HIS WAY...

UNN Zheng Fei. Asteroid Belt.
Eight years earlier.

MY CREW ON THE ZHENG FEI WERE GREEN. MOST HAD NEVER SEEN REAL ACTION.

I TELL THEM ABOUT THE VESTA BLOCKADE. ABOUT CALLISTO. HOW DANGEROUS IT IS FIGHTING ON ENEMY TURF. HOW THE OPA IS **NEVER** TO BE UNDERESTIMATED.

BUT I WON'T BE AROUND FOREVER.

UNN

I HOPE THE NEW KIDS ARE READY.

DID YOU THINK THAT WAS FUNNY, LIEUTENANT NOWAK?

NO, SIR.

YOU WON'T FIND IT FUNNY WHEN YOU'RE SCRUBBING THIS SHIP TOP TO BOTTOM WHILE EVERYONE ELSE IS ON SHORE LEAVE.

HEY CAP, YOU GOTTA MINUTE?

WHAT DO YOU WANT, HOLDEN?

BY ALL MEANS, HAVE A SEAT.

IT WAS A JOKE. LIEUTENANT NOWAK WAS JUST TRYING TO FIT IN. DON'T YOU THINK TAKING AWAY HIS SHORE LEAVE IS A LITTLE EXTREME?

COMMANDER DORAN HANDLED THE SITUATION BY THE BOOK.

IT WOULD DO YOU GOOD TO REMEMBER WHO IS IN CHARGE.

ANY ROOM FOR LENIENCY IF AN ACCOMPLICE CONFESSED?

CHARM WILL GET YOU FAR IN LIFE...

...BUT I'M NOT GOING TO COUNTERMAND DORAN. THIS IS THE NAVY. NOT A FRATERNITY.

YOU'RE MORE THAN WELCOME TO JOIN HIM.

...

WELL, GUESS THE SHIP'LL GET CLEAN TWICE AS FAST.

JAMES HOLDEN. ALWAYS TRYING TO PROTECT THE UNDERDOG.

IT WAS PRETTY FUNNY.

IT'S COME TO MY ATTENTION, LIEUTENANT, YOU COMPLAINED TO THE CAPTAIN ABOUT HOW I HANDLED NOWAK.

YEAH.

SO?

I AM YOUR COMMANDING OFFICER IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM, YOU COME DIRECTLY TO ME

SOON, YOUR BUDDY WON'T BE IN CHARGE AND THIS KIND OF ATTITUDE WON'T FLY UNDER MY WATCH

IS THAT CLEAR, LIEUTENANT?

YES, SIR

YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN HIS FACE HE'LL TRIPLE CHECK THOSE LATCHES NEXT FLIP 'N BURN!

I HAVEN'T LAUGHED SO HARD SINCE

SINCE NOWAK'S LAST PRANK!

AND HOLDEN HERE'S GONNA DO HARD TIME WITH ME NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL A FRIEND!

NAH, HE JUST COULDN'T SLEEP HIS WAY OUT OF THIS ONE

hahahahahaha

BLEEP BLEEP

UNIDENTIFIED SHIP DETECTED IN RANGE ALL CREW TO THEIR STATIONS.

AGAIN, THIS IS CAPTAIN MASLOW OF THE *UNN ZHENG FEI*. YOU ARE ORDERED TO TIGHT BEAM YOUR REGISTRATION AND FLIGHT PLAN

IMMEDIATELY.

CAPTAIN, WE'RE READING A CHANGE IN HEAT SIGNATURE THEY MAY TRY TO MAKE A RUN FOR IT

THIS IS YOUR FINAL WARNING. IDENTIFY YOURSELF **NOW** OR WE WILL BE FORCED TO FIRE

WE SHOULD SHOOT TO D SABLE NOW BEFORE THEY ACCELERATE AND GO DARK

I AGREE

THEY'RE OPA TERRORISTS SMUGGLING WEAPONS.

YOU DON'T KNOW THAT.

WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT TH S SHIP

EXACTLY. WE DON'T

TARGET LOCKED

I'M ORDERING YOU TO FIRE ON THAT SHIP, LIEUTENANT HOLDEN

NOW.

FOR ALL WE KNOW, THAT SHIP COULD BE FULL OF PEOPLE

THAT'S AN ORDER, LIEUTENANT

I'M NOT FIRING ON THAT SHIP.

STAND ASIDE, LIEUTEN-

YOU'RE A THREAT TO THIS SHIP

AND YOU'RE A THREAT TO THE SYSTEM.

HOW DARE -

ENOUGH.

COMMANDER, STAND DOWN

YESS, TAKE LIEUTENANT HOLDEN TO HIS QUARTERS NOW.

CAPTAIN, TARGET STILL LOCKED.

FIRE.

I KNEW THE RISKS.
IT DIDN'T GO OUR WAY THAT DAY.
BUT IT'S THE JOB. IT'S MY JOB.

HE SHOULD BE COURT MARTIALED

HE **MISSED**, AND **YOU**, HIS SUPERIOR OFFICER, **DIDN'T**

I KNOW YOU'RE UNSURE

YOU **ARE** READY FOR THIS

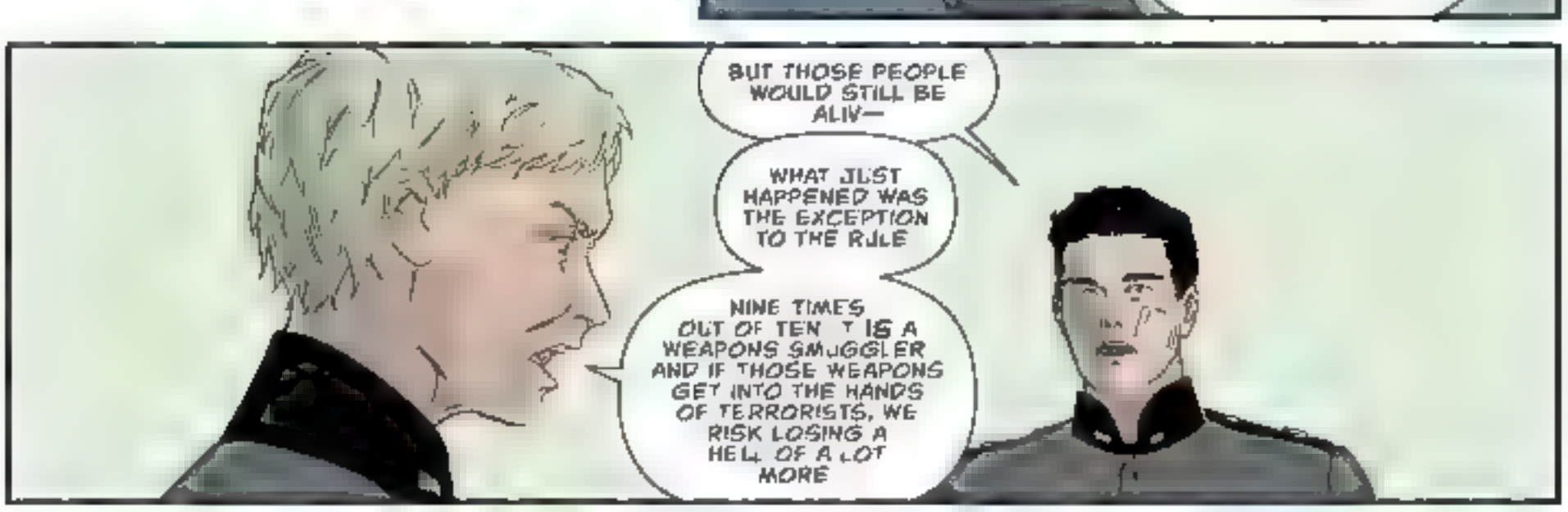
BUT **YOU** NEED TO KNOW THAT

THAT'S NOT THE POINT. THE NEXT TIME HE DISOBEYS AN ORDER, WHICH YOU KNOW WILL HAPPEN, IT MIGHT BE OUR GUYS WHO DIE

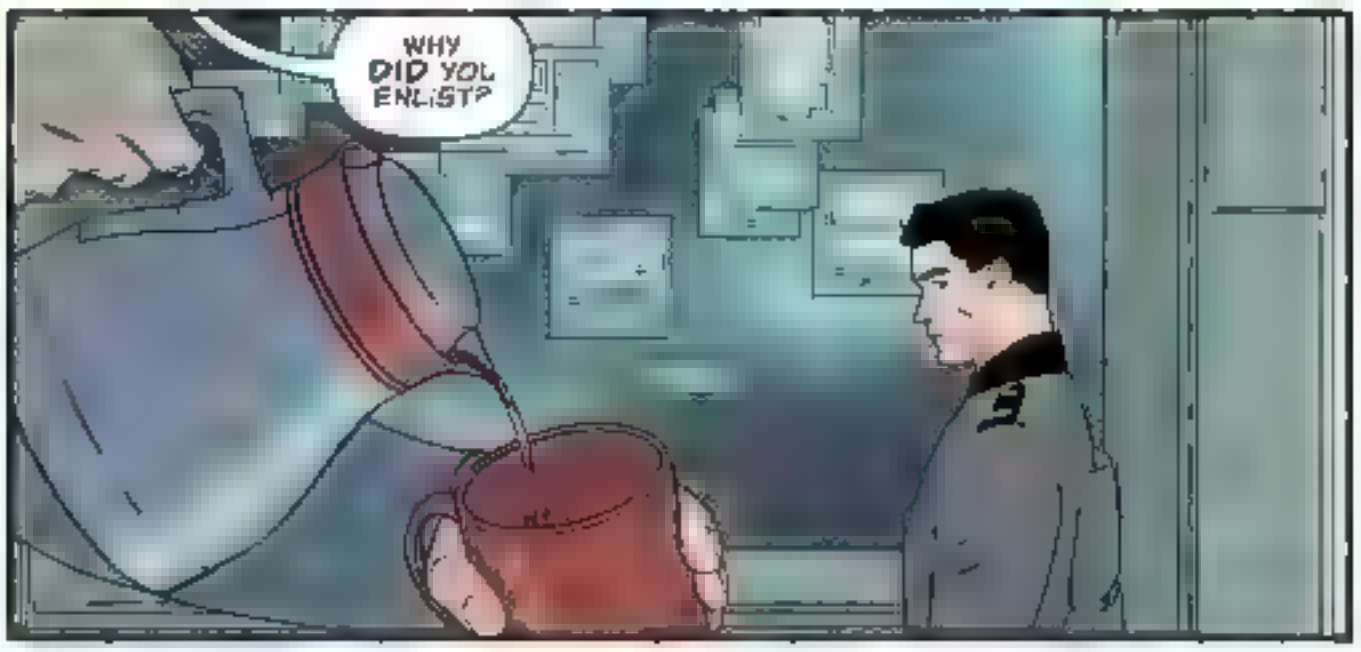
I'LL HANDLE IT

SIT

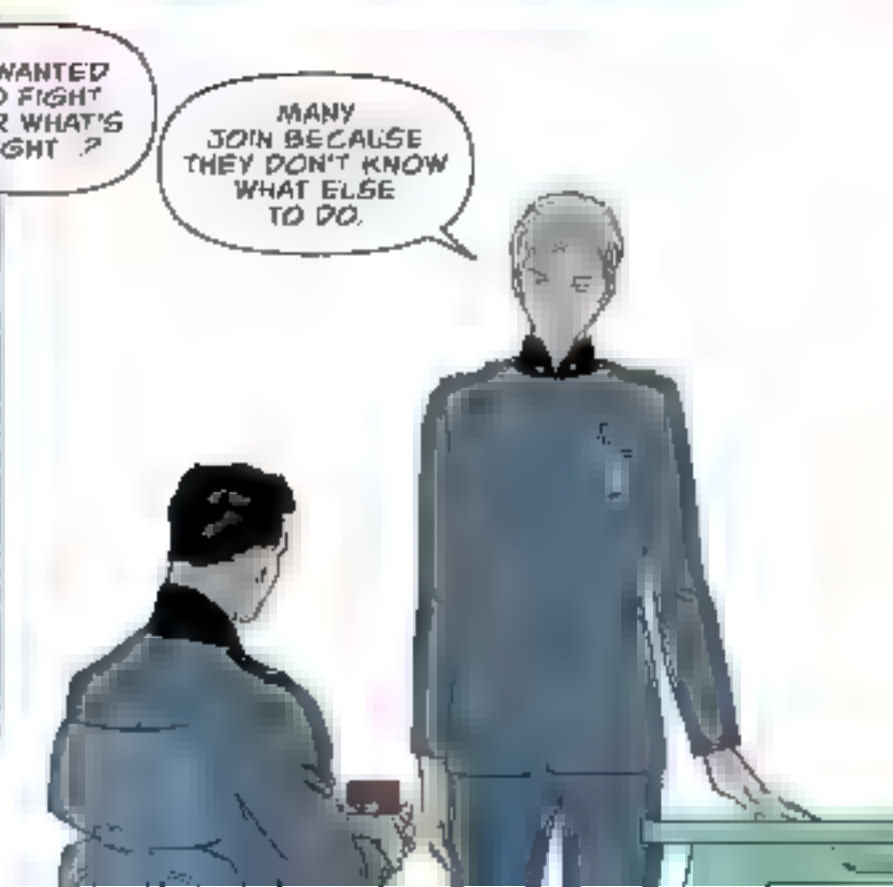
YOU WERE RIGHT. THEY WERE SMUGGLING PEOPLE NOT WEAPONS. BUT YOU WERE WRONG WHEN YOU DISOBEYED A DIRECT ORDER
WE HAVE THESE PROTOCOLS FOR A REASON, AND IT'S UNFORTUNATE WHEN PEOPLE DIE. BUT IT'S NOT YOUR PLACE TO DECIDE


BUT THOSE PEOPLE WOULD STILL BE ALIV—
WHAT JUST HAPPENED WAS THE EXCEPTION TO THE RULE
NINE TIMES OUT OF TEN IT IS A WEAPONS SMUGGLER AND IF THOSE WEAPONS GET INTO THE HANDS OF TERRORISTS, WE RISK LOSING A HELL OF A LOT MORE

YES SIR


WHY DID YOU ENLIST?

I WANTED TO FIGHT FOR WHAT'S RIGHT.


MANY JOIN BECAUSE THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO.

IS THAT WHY YOU JOINED?

I AM MY UNIFORM THIS IS ALL I'VE EVER WANTED.

BUT THE MILITARY ISN'T FOR EVERYONE

YOU'RE A NATURAL LEADER BUT YOU'RE AN IDEALIST WHO HAS ISSUES WITH AUTHORITY AND PROTOCOL

AND I THINK WE BOTH KNOW THE MILITARY IS NOT THE PLACE FOR YOU

YOU'D BE COURT MARTIALED BACK HOME PROBABLY GET OFF WITH A DEMOTION AND A FEW MONTHS DOCKED PAY.

HOWEVER. I'VE SECURED APPROVAL TO DIRECTLY DISCHARGE YOU.

YOU'RE KICKING ME OUT?

I'M ORDERING YOU BACK TO EARTH AS SOON AS WE DOCK

YOUR SKILLS COULD BE PUT TO GOOD USE IN THE CIVILIAN WORLD YOU'LL FIND YOUR PLACE, JIM.

YOU'RE MORE THAN THAT UNIFORM.

WE LEARN NOT TO MAKE PEOPLE WHO WE WANT THEM TO BE

AND NEVER AT THE EXPENSE OF WHO WE ARE

Congratulations on your graduation! Excited you'll finally be back down the hall. Got a lot of people in the private sector who'd love you on their team. What's next for you?

COMMANDER DORAN FEARS HE DOESN'T DESERVE HIS UNIFORM.

I'M AFRAID OF LOSING MINE

AND HOLDEN HE'S STILL SEARCHING.

HEARD THEY'RE SENDING YOU BACK HOME

I'M NOT GOING HOME

BUT I KNOW, ONE DAY HE'LL FIND ONE THAT FITS.

CHAPTER_002

NAOMI NAGATA

THERE WOULD BE NEWER. SHINIER SHIPS AFTER

BUT ONE WOULD ALWAYS BE IN NAOMI'S HEART

BECAUSE SHE FIXED IT

REMEMBER HE [illegible]

AND IT HELPED FIX HER

Eight years earlier.

LIKE THE CANT

SHE WAS BARELY KEEPING IT TOGETHER

DELETE

I ONLY GOT THE ONE DEGREE IN MEDICINE OBVIOUSLY

BUT WOW DOUBLE E AND FUSION DRIVE MECHANICS!

SO HOW'D A GIRL LIKE YOU END UP ON A DUMP LIKE THE CANT?

LOOKS LIKE SHE WAS QUITE THE LADY BACK IN THE DAY.

YOU GOING TO MISS YOUR FAMILY?

YOU, UH... LEAVING ANYONE SPECIAL BEHIND?

NO.

DON'T WORRY. I'LL SHOW YOU AROUND INTRODUCE YOU--

DR GARVEY--

PLEASE, SHED.

DR GARVEY. I REALLY NEED TO WORK.

WELL, DON'T FORGET YOUR MED EVAL. JUST A FORMALITY BUT WE CAN FINISH THE TOUR AFTER -

DR GARVEY. SHE'D NO OFFENSE BUT I'M NOT LOOKING TO MAKE FRIENDS

HELLO. I'M NAOMI.

IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.

SHIPS ARE EASY TO TALK TO.

SO I DIDN'T KNOW THAT WAS THE PLAN. BUT IT WAS STILL MY FAULT.

SHIPS DON'T JUDGE

LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE HAD A ROUGH TIME, TOO.

THE CANT WAS IN BAD SHAPE BUT HER CHIEF ENGINEER WAS IN WORSE

YOU THE NEW CHIEF?

NAOMI

FEN.

YOU ONE OF MY MECHANICS?

I WANT TO BE USED TO BE A HULL WELDER NOW I'M THE SHIP REPAIRMAN. BUT I'M RARING TO LEARN.

HOW MANY MECHS DO I HAVE?

WELL, WE HAD JADEN. BUT HE JUST QUIT SAID TYCHO SHIPPING HAD DENTAL, WHICH WE BY THE WAY, DO NOT.

BUT I HEARD JADEN WAS FRATERNIZING WITH OUR CO-PILOT WHILE OILING THE COG WITH BYERS.

CAP FIGURED THE TROUBLE AIN'T WORTH IT GAVE JADEN HIS WALKING PAPERS LAST WEEK.

SO, WORKED OUT BEST FOR [redacted]

I GET ALL THE INSIDE DIRT

WELL, MAYBE YOU CAN TELL ME WHY THE FUSION REACTOR'S ONLY GOT THREE BARIUM OXIDE SCG

I MEAN IF THIS IS AN HMF TOKAMAK, WHY DON'T WE HAVE SIX?

UH... LIKE I SAID I'M RARING TO LEARN

HE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT A TOKAMAK WAS.

THE CANT'S A GRAND OLD LADY. BUT SHE'S READY TO FALL APART IN FIVE DIFFERENT PLACES

I CAN FIX HER IF YOU GIVE ME A P.O. FOR A NEW K-MOD AND TWO REAL MECHANICS.

SURE AND HOW 'BOUT I THROW IN A VACATION TO LUNA?

LISTEN, WE'RE BAREBONES HERE WE WORK WITH WHAT WE GOT

WHAT I GOT IS A GLORIFIED HANDYMAN WHO'LL END UP COSTING YOU [redacted]

I NEED A PROPER MECHANIC

FINE BUT FOR ENTRY SCALE

NO DECENT MECHANIC WOULD TAKE THAT--

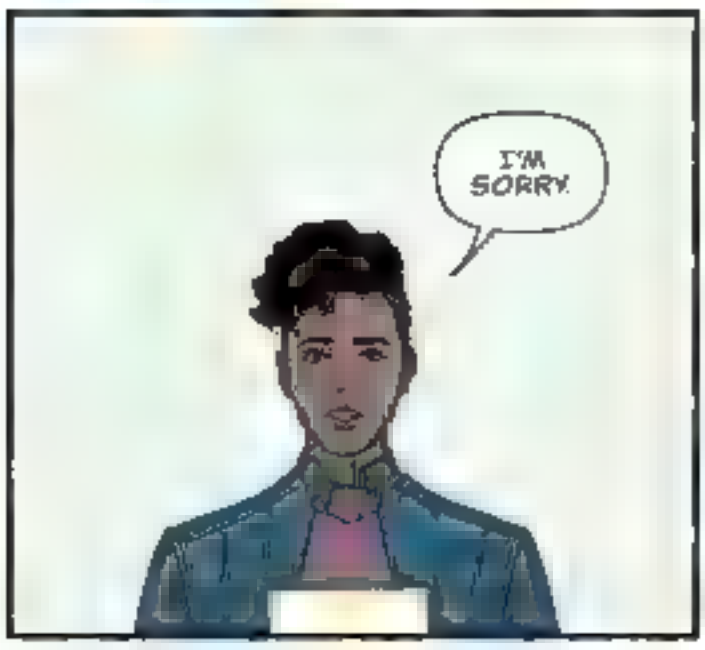
WORK WITH WHAT WE GOT, NAGATA.

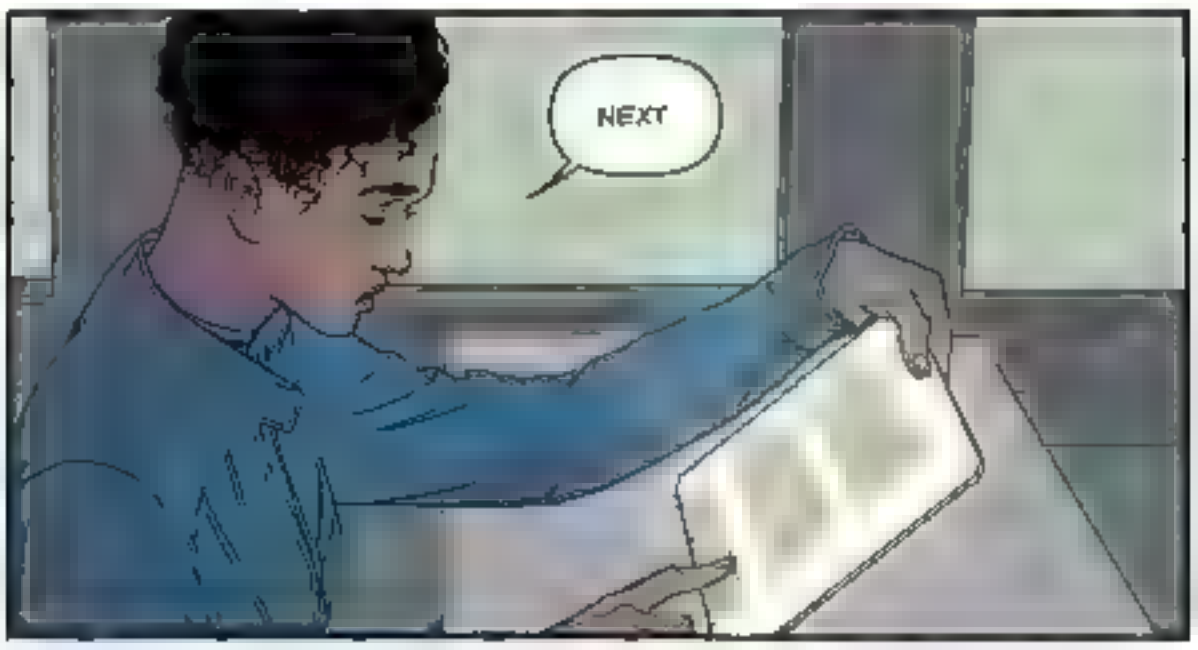
.. SO BASICALLY YOU HAVE NO TRAINING OR EXPERIENCE.
NO SA SA. BUT A BERATNA WILLING TA LEARN SA SA KEP
THANKS ALREADY GOT ONE OF THOSE

TWENTY-TWO YEARS IN THE ICE TRAWLING BIZ IMPRESSIVE

BUT WE DO PULL SOME FULL-G MANEUVERS .. SOMETIMES TWO OR THREE Gs.

HIT ME WITH THE JUICE, AND I CAN BURN LIKE THE REST OF 'EM!


I'M SORRY.


NEXT

SHE DIDN'T KNOW WHY.

BUT FROM THE FIRST MOMENT

SHE TRUSTED HIM.

WELL, YOU REALLY KNOW YOUR AVIONICS, PROPULSION, NANOTECH.

YUP

MAY I ASK WHY YOU WANT THIS JOB?

TIME FOR ME TO MOVE ON.

WELL, DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS FOR ME?

ABOUT THE JOB? THE SHIP? ME?

NOPE

HE KNEW HIS STUFF

AND HE'D LEAVE HER ALONE

WHEN CAN YOU START?

FOURTEEN POINT SIX

FOURTEEN POINT SIX

HAMMER DRIL.

TWELVE OR EIGHTEEN VOLT?

EIGHTEEN

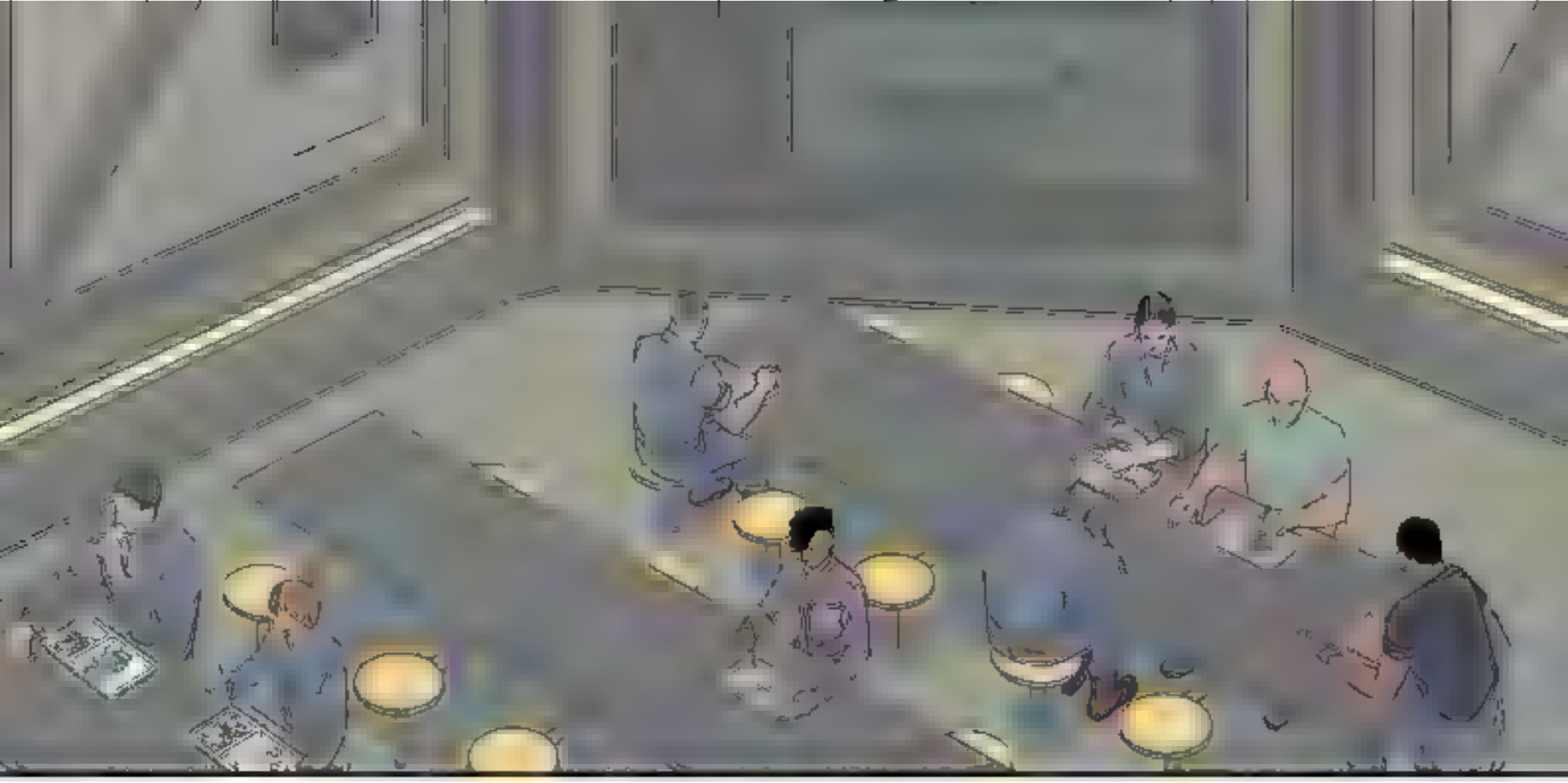
LIKE THE CANT, HE DIDN'T JUDGE

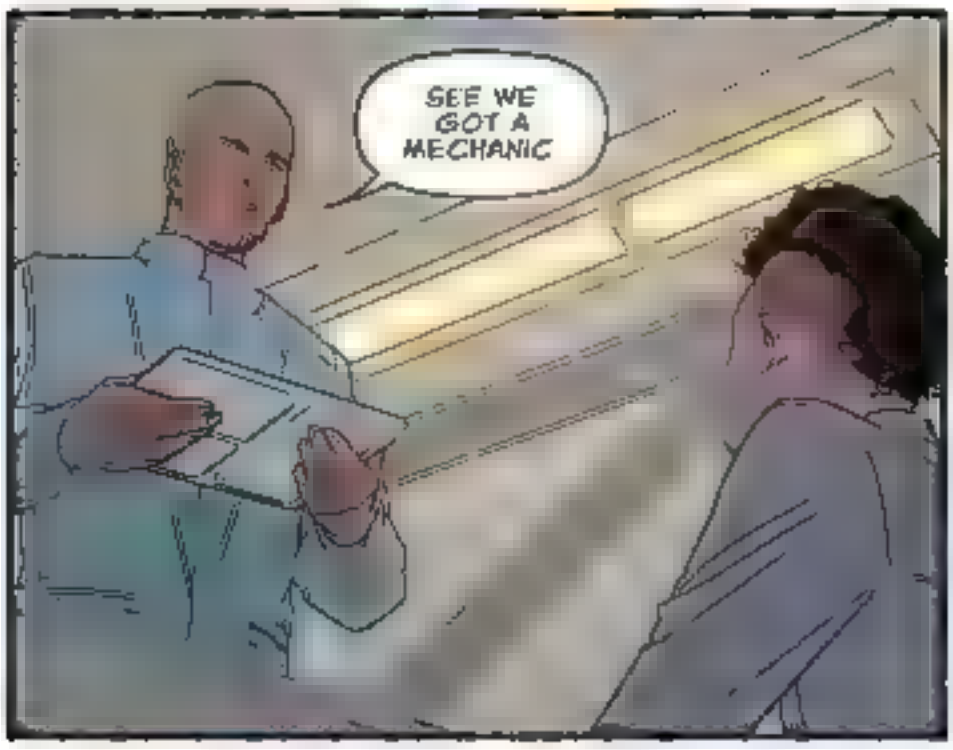
COME ON LUNCH BREAK.

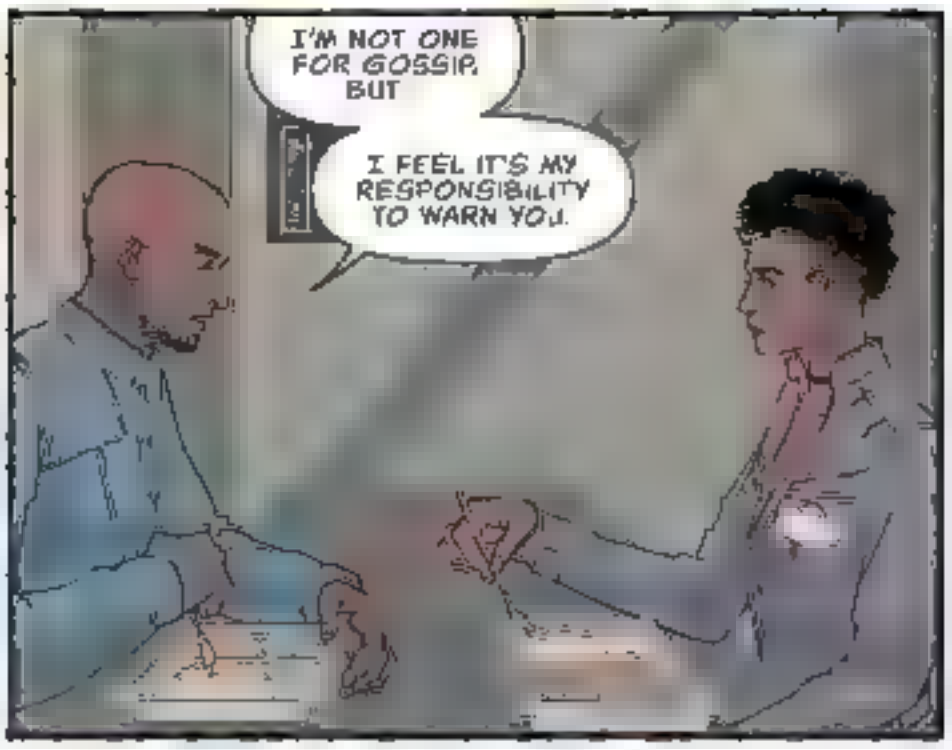
YOU WANNA SIT TOGETHER?

I'D RATHER SIT BY MYSELF

SOMEONE WHO WANTED FRIENDS EVEN LESS THAN SHE DID.



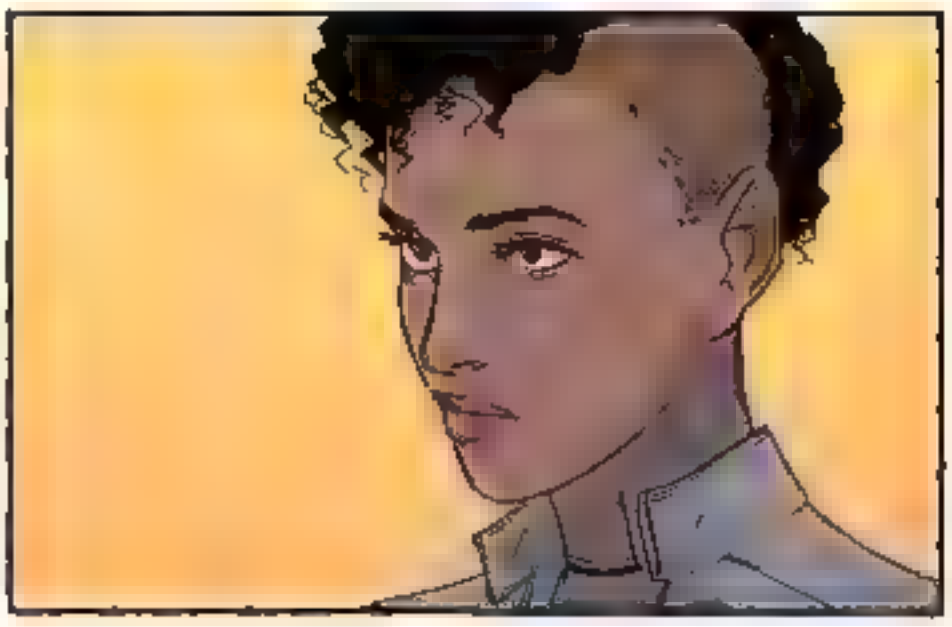

SEE WE GOT A MECHANIC


I'M NOT ONE FOR GOSSIP, BUT
I FEEL IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY TO WARN YOU.

WATCH OUT FOR HIM. I HEARD HE'S CRAZY A SOCIOPATH.
HEARD HE'S KILLED PEOPLE

THAT DOESN'T MAKE HIM A SOCIOPATH.

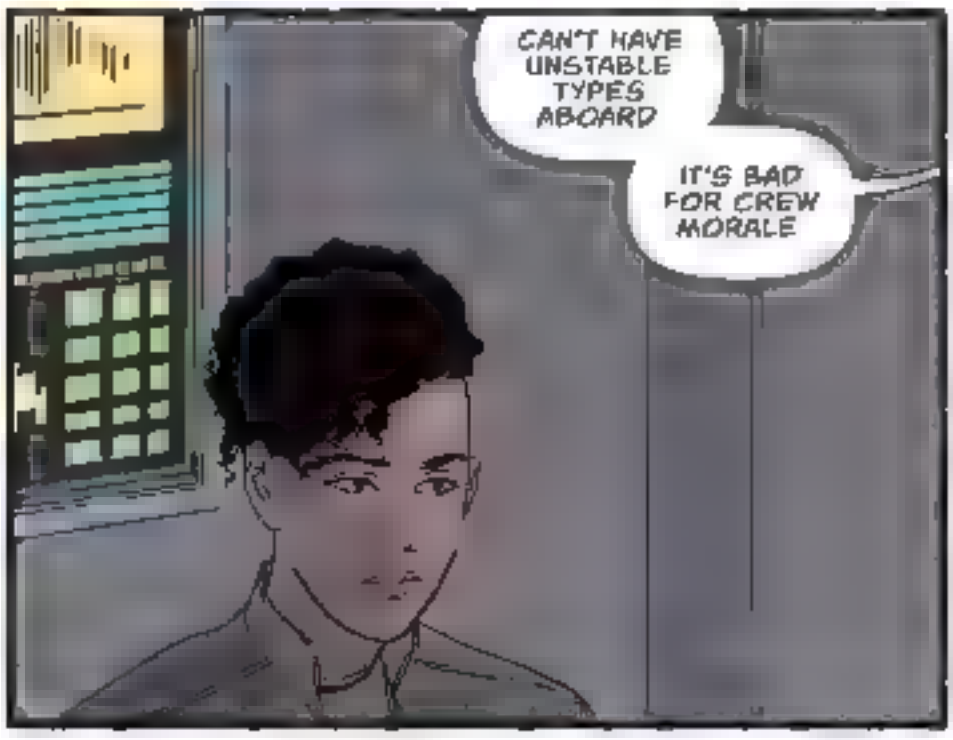
T MAKES HIM A BAD GUY
WATCH YOUR BACK



AMOS!

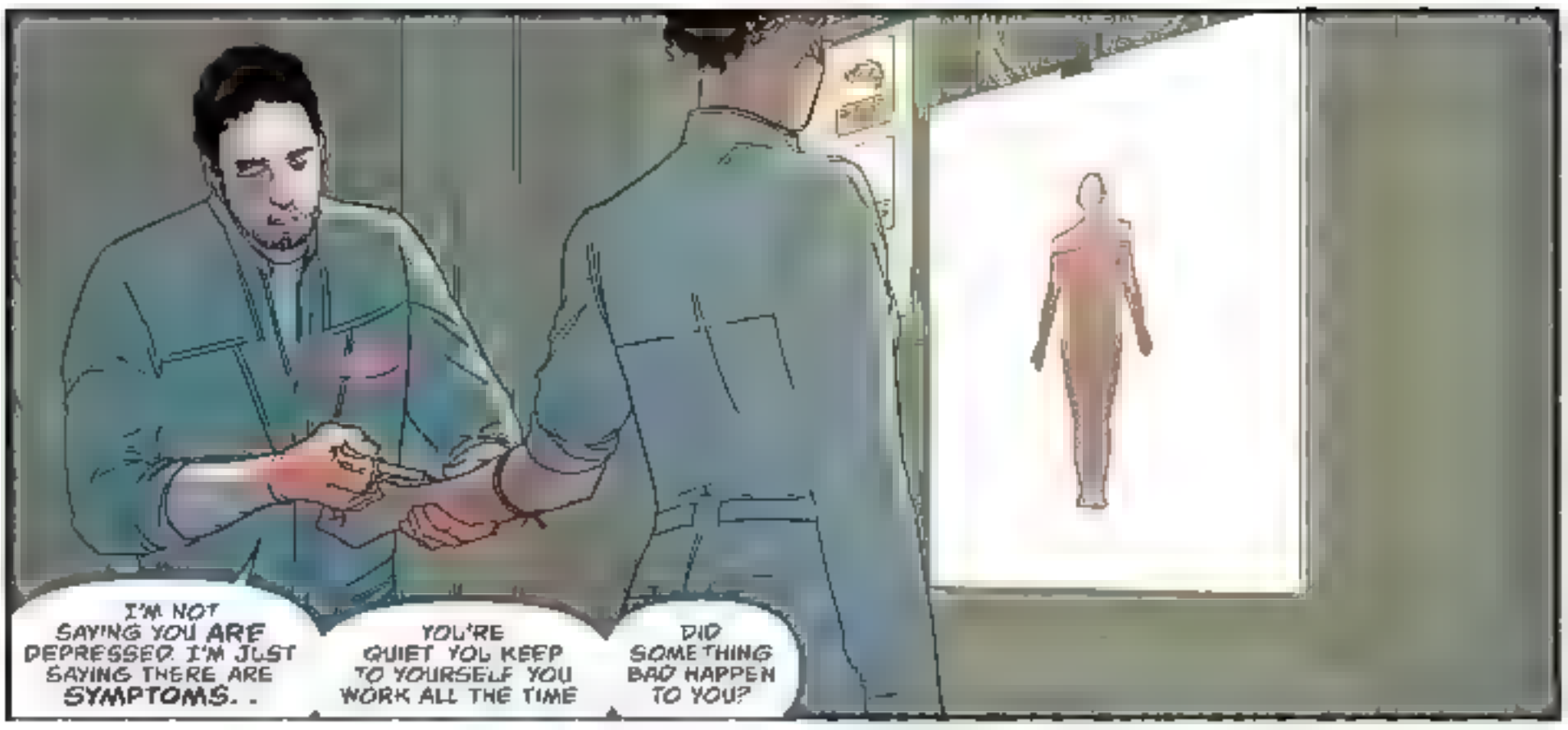
SHE THOUGHT SHE WAS THE ONLY MONSTER HERE HAD SHE JUST INVITED ANOTHER ON BOARD?

I HEARD BURTON WOULD'VE KILLED HIM IF OUR BOYS HADN'T PULLED HIM OFF


CAN'T HAVE UNSTABLE TYPES ABOARD
IT'S BAD FOR CREW MORALE

IT'S BAD FOR BUSINESS.

AFTER THIS ROTATION, FIND ANOTHER MECHANIC I WANT YOJR PSYCHOPATH OUTTA HERE
SHE KNEW McDOWELL WAS RIGHT. AND SHE DIDN'T KNOW AMOS AT ALL BJT SOMETHING IN HER WAS SAD HE HAD TO GO.


I'M NOT SAYING YOU ARE DEPRESSED. I'M JUST SAYING THERE ARE SYMPTOMS. .
YOU'RE QUIET. YOU KEEP TO YOURSELF. YOU WORK ALL THE TIME
DID SOMETHING BAD HAPPEN TO YOU?
NO. WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT?
JUST INSTINCT I GUESS.
INSTINCT
IT'LL GET YOU INTO TROUBLE MORE THAN ANYTHING.
THERE'S MORE TO INSTINCT THAN WE UNDERSTAND.
WHEN WE MEET SOMEONE NEW, WE KNOW WITHIN SECONDS WHETHER WE LIKE THEM OR NOT
HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF EVOLUTION TO ANSWER, IN A HEARTBEAT, ONE QUESTION: ARE YOU A GOOD PERSON?
CAN I TRUST YOU?
BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DON'T TRUST YOURSELF. ?

SO, UH HOW'RE YOU DOING?

GREAT

JUST THE OTHER DAY AT LUNCH

DID DID SOMETHING BAD HAPPEN TO YOU?

YEAH

ACTUALLY A LOT OF "BAD" HAPPENED TO ME

I'M SO SORRY

WELL A LOT OF "BAD" HAPPENED BY ME, TOO.

CAN'T BE THAT **BAD**.

I'VE KILLED PEOPLE

I'D SAY THAT'S PRETTY "BAD"

SHE WASN'T SHOCKED THAT HE'D KILLED. SHE WAS SHOCKED HE ADMITTED IT.

IF HE WAS A MONSTER, HE WAS AN HONEST ONE

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY KILLER HERE

BUT YOU DIDN'T **MEAN** TO KILL THEM, RIGHT?

NO. I DID.

DID YOU?

NO! NO, OF COURSE NOT!

I DIDN'T KNOW. I DIDN'T KNOW

BUT I **DID** KILL THEM. I'M AS MUCH A MONSTER AS.

I DIDN'T MEAN-

AT LEAST YOU FEEL BAD.

I KNOW LOTS OF FOLKS WHO **GOT OFF** ON HURTING OTHERS.

WHAT ABOUT YOU? DO YOU FEEL BAD?

I DON'T FEEL ANYTHING

'S THAT WORSE?

RRRR

RRRRR

DAMMIT ONE OF THE HELIUM COPVS NSIDE THE ..OX TANK FAILED.

IF THE OXYGEN FREEZES, IT'LL IGNITE THE CARBON COMPOSITE IN THE HELIUM TANKS AND.

BOOM.

IT'S TANK FIVE

THERE'S A RUPTURE IN THE HELIUM-LOX TANK INTERFACE. CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'RE STILL USING MERLIN 5Os.

THIS LADY BELONGS IN A MUSEUM.

DAMNIT

YOU GOTTA DITCH THE JETPACK.

!

OR. I CAN DITCH MINE AND GO IN IF THINGS GO SOUTH. **YOU** COME AND RESCUE **ME**.

IT'S OKAY. I WOULDN'T TRUST ME EITHER

YOU'RE RIGHT. I SHOULDN'T.

BUT I DO.

HER LIFE WAS IN HIS HANDS AND THE SHIP'S IN HERS...

EVERYONE EVEN AMOS HIMSELF THOUGHT HE WAS A MONSTER. BUT NAOMI TRUSTED HIM.

AND THAT WAS EVERYTHING TO AMOS.

STEADY NOW YOU'RE GONNA BE ALRIGHT, OLE GIRL.

JUST GONNA REMOVE THIS LITTLE--

I GOTCHA.

NO! I'M GOING TOO FAST!

BYERS? FEN? ANYONE!

CRAP. THE BLAST MUST'VE HIT THE CANT'S RECEIVER

MORE GOOD NEWS. GOT A HOLE IN MY O2 TANK.

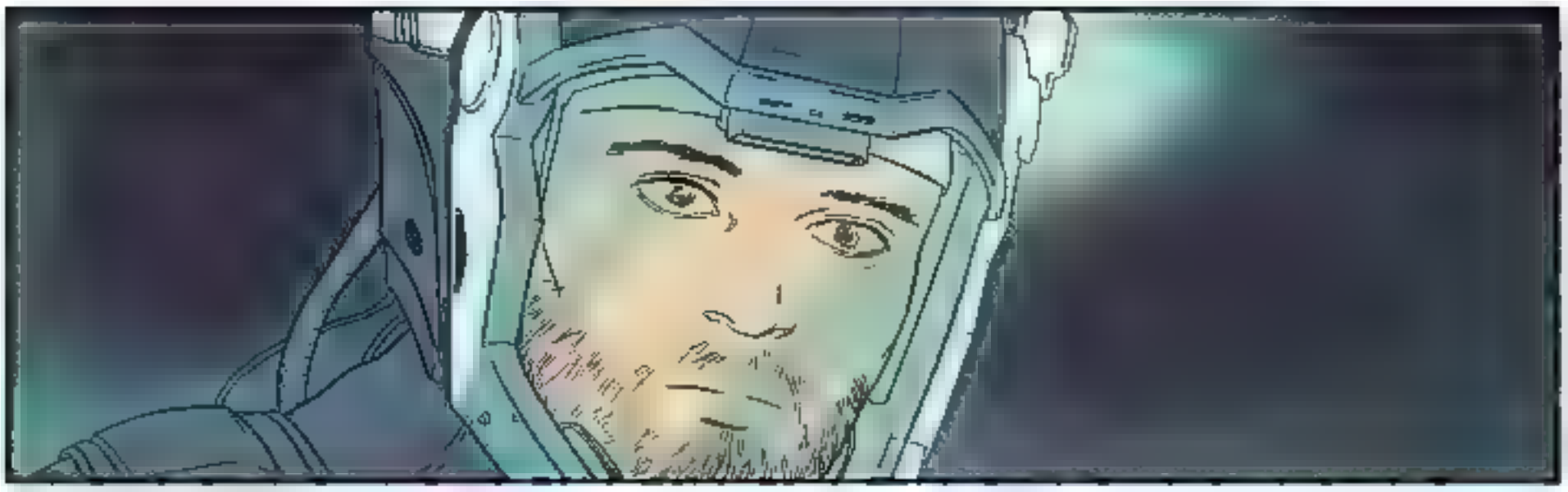
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

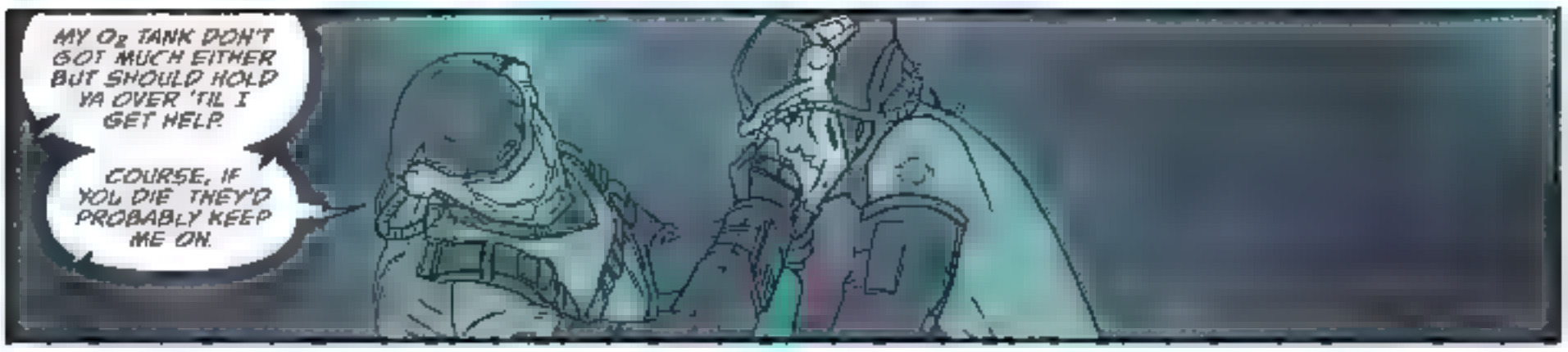
ONLY GOT NUFF PROPELLANT TO GET ONE OF US BACK AND GET HELP.

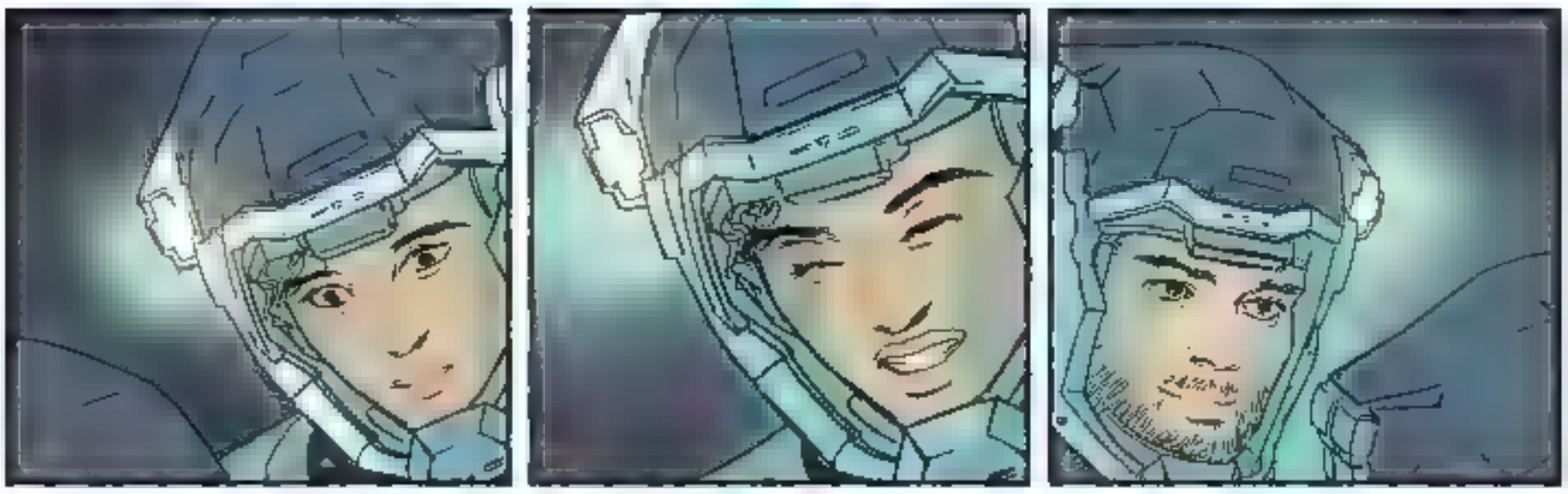
THANK YOU.

AFTER ALL THE BAD IN MY LIFE, I STOPPED TRUSTING MYSELF.

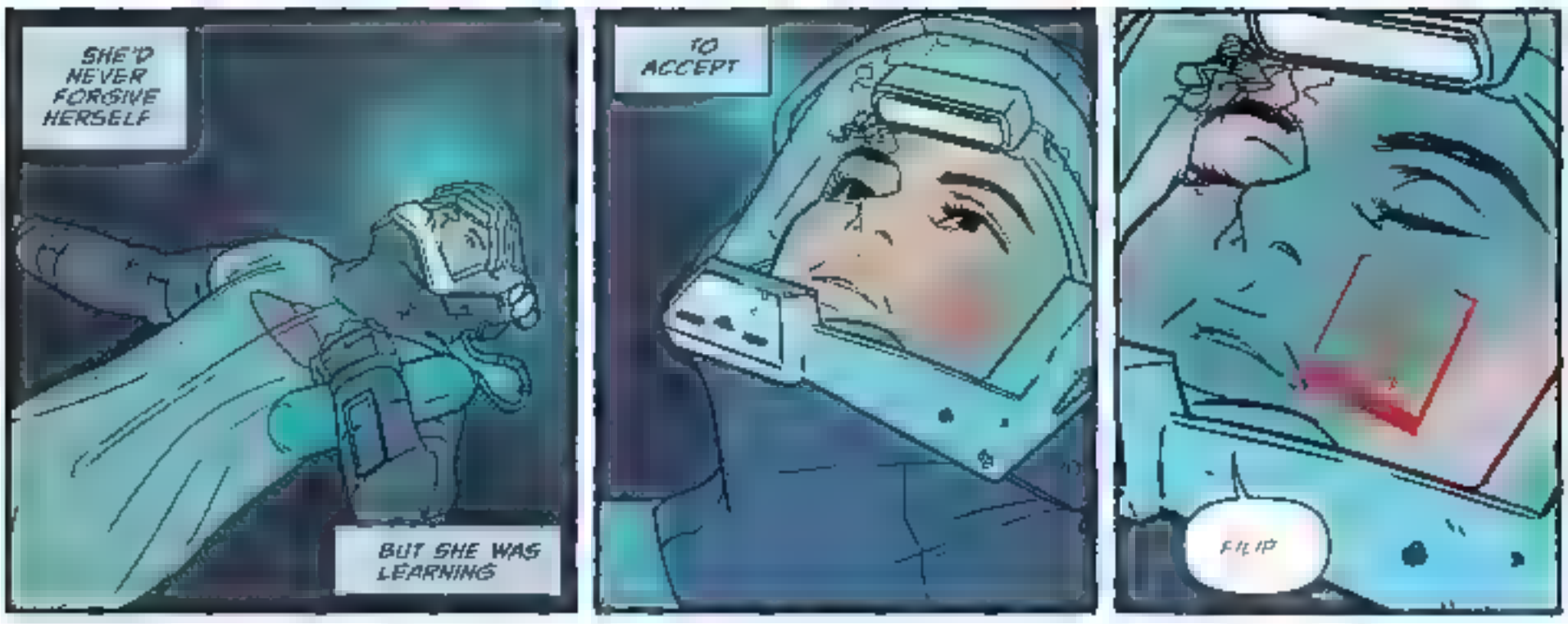
BUT I TRUST YOU




MY O_2 TANK DON'T GOT MUCH EITHER BUT SHOULD HOLD YA OVER 'TIL I GET HELP.
COURSE, IF YOU DIE THEY'D PROBABLY KEEP ME ON.



SHE WAS READY


SHE'D NEVER FORGIVE HERSELF
BUT SHE WAS LEARNING
TO ACCEPT
FLIP

WELCOME BACK.

YOU SAVED THE SHIP

WHAT HAPPENED TO FEN?

OH. UH AMOS THOUGHT HE TOOK TOO LONG PREPPING THE RESCUE POD

HEARD YOU CHANGED THE CAP'S MIND.

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE STUCK TOGETHER

YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON

I'M NOT I'M REALLY NOT

BAD PEOPLE DON'T FEEL BAD FOR THE THINGS THEY DONE

I FIGURE YOU FEEL SO BAD, YOU MUST BE GOOD.

WE'RE ALL A LITTLE BROKEN INSIDE

BUT WE CAN HELP FIX EACH OTHER

CHAPTER_003

ALEX KAMAL

COMING TO CONSCIOUSNESS IS NOT THE DISCOVERY OF SOME **NEW** THING.

BUT RATHER A LONG AND PAINFUL RETURN TO THAT WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN.

AND OFTEN IT IS THOSE DARK AND TRAGIC THINGS OF ALL MAGNITUDE

THAT **PUSH** US ONTO THE STRANGE ROADS WE MUST TAKE

AND LEAD US TO WHERE WE **NEED** TO BE

Mars.
Five years earlier.

OKAY, QUIET QUIET!

IT'S ALMOST TIME!

SURPRISE!

WELCOME HOME!

MELAS GO, SAY HI TO DADDY

HEY, BUDDY.

?

IT HAS BEEN A WHILE

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER AGAIN.

DO YOU KNOW CAPTAIN ZILLO?

I DON'T THINK SO?

IT'S NOT MY BIRTHDAY IS IT?

WELL, YA'LL ARE DEFINITELY A SURPRISE!

WE'RE JUST HAPPY TO HAVE YOU HOME

THAT AND I HAVE A BIT OF NEWS

WHAT IS IT, TALISSA?

WE'RE FINALLY PREGNANT!

BADHAI HO!

BURRAH!

I WANTED TO WAIT UNTIL WE HAD A HEALTHY THUMBS UP

HOW FAR?

ABOUT FIVE MONTHS.

THE MATH WORKS!

IT'S ABOUT TIME!

BEGINNING TO WONDER IF YOU WERE REALLY AN EARTHER.

CONGRATS, BABY BRO.

THANKS, CASEY I HAVE A GOOD FEELING ABOUT THIS ONE

THIRD TIME'S THE CHARM.

RIGHT?

THANKS FOR COMING

I KNOW TAL'S FAM AREN'T THE SWEETEST PEACHES

JUST WISH THEY WEREN'T SO HARD ON YOU

LATER

IT'S TIME YOU LET US GIFT YOU A BIGGER PLACE

YOU'LL HAVE TO WHEN THREE AND FOUR FINALLY COME

I APPRECIATE THAT, MR AND MRS. PATEL, BUT

I'D RATHER NOT

FOR GOD'S SAKE, ALEX ENOUGH OF THIS NEED—

FATHER! PLEASE THIS IS A CELEBRATION.

YOU'RE RIGHT OF COURSE WE'RE THRILLED.

SORRY ABOUT MY PARENTS

JUST WISH THEY'D STOP BLAMING.

THEY'RE JUST ANXIOUS. ALL THEIR FRIENDS HAVE ARMIES OF GRANDCHILDREN ALREADY.

I KNOW I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU.

OH, IT'S OKAY

IT'S **WONDERFUL** NEWS.

A VERY HAPPY HOMECOMING

GOOD BECAUSE THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE

I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU **LOVE** FLYING.

BUT

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME YOU FINALLY RETIRE THE WINGS? TAKE A JOB **ON** PLANET

YOUR **DUTY** IS **HERE** NOW, WITH **US**

UM. WOW. OK. YEAH.

I **GUESS** YOU'RE RIGHT.?

Two weeks later.

YOU'RE A PILOT TO THE CORE. KAMAL SURE YOU WANNA DO THIS?

TIME FOR MORE FATHERLY THINGS, XO.

ALWAYS HATE WHEN ONE OF THE FAMILY MOVES ON.

YEAH

THAT SEAT'S GONNA MISS YOU...

YEAH, ME TOO.

AND I'LL MISS YOUR LASAGNA.

YOU TAKE CARE, PARDNER

MORN
PI. 01

Two weeks later.

PATEL

ERRAFORMING

WHEN LIVING FOR OTHERS' EXPECTATIONS IS ALL YOU KNOW

Three weeks later.

PATEL

RRAFORMIN

YUCK!

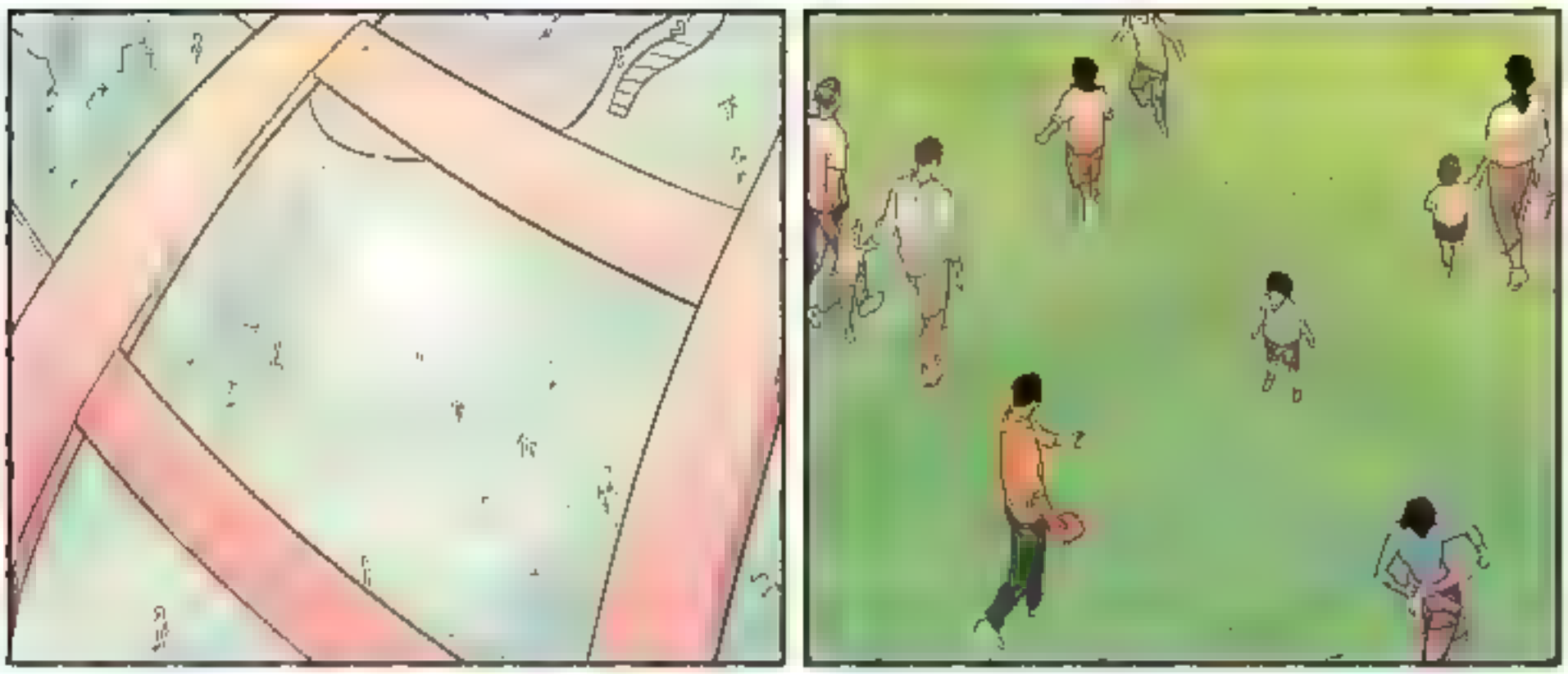
Five weeks later.

ATE

RAFORMI

TAKE CARE OF ZX3 FILES FOR ME?

TO SEE OUR TRUTH TAKES TIME


NOW LOB IT BACK
CAN I GO PLAY WITH MY FRIENDS?
COME ON, MELAS WE ARE PLAYING. PLEASE?
WHEN'S MOMMY COMING?
QUITE AN ARM, KIDDO!
CASEY!
GOT YA A LIL' SOMETHIN'
YOU KNOW, YOUR DAD USED TO FLY A SHIP LIKE THIS ONE
WOW!
YOU KNOW VERY WELL I NEVER GOT TO FLY ANY SHIP LIKE THAT
EVERY KID SHOULD SEE THEIR POPS AS A HERO.

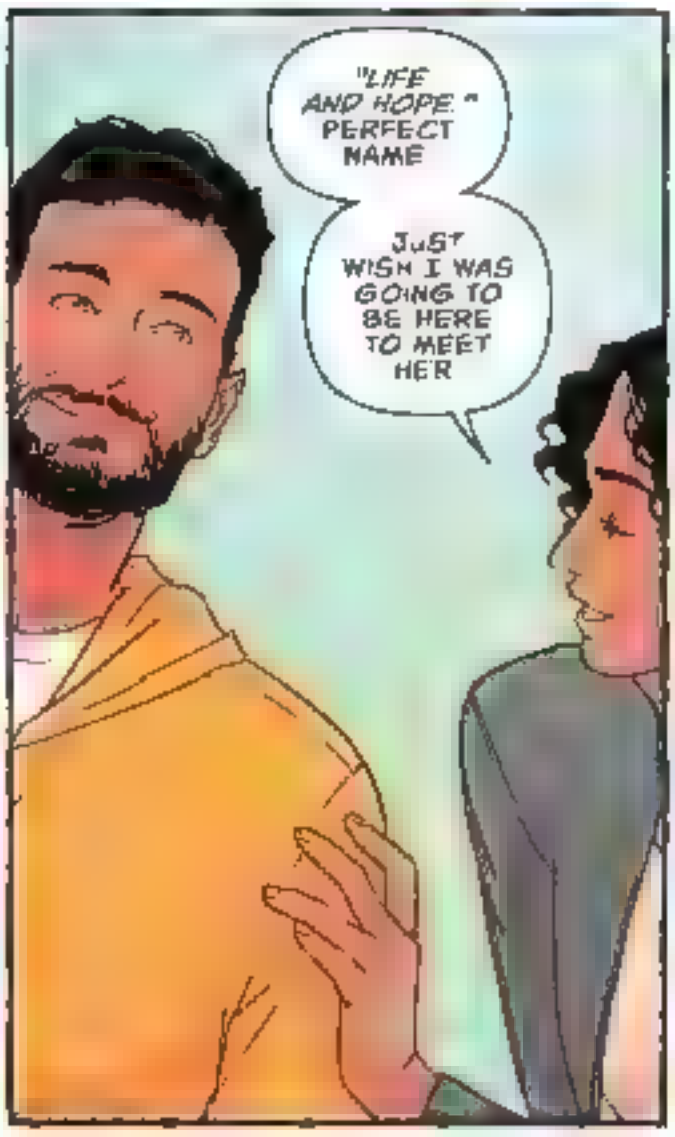
SO HOW'S DESK JOCKEYING?
GOOD.

OKAY I'M BARELY HOLDING IT TOGETHER

BARELY? HA! HAVE YOU SEEN YOURSELF?
FLYING'S THE ONLY PLACE I FELT ANYT- NO, NO

I'M DOING THE RIGHT THING
I ADMIT IT'S BEEN TOUGH BONDING WITH MELAS

BUT IT'LL BE WORTH IT
AND SOON I'LL HAVE A FRESH START WITH ASHIA.


"LIFE AND HOPE." PERFECT NAME
JUST WISH I WAS GOING TO BE HERE TO MEET HER

?!?

I'M BEING TRANSFERRED TO THE VESTA BASE IN A COUPLE WEEKS

OH, GREAT I'M GROUNDED NOW YOU'RE LEAVING WHERE ON MARS WILL I FIND MY SANITY?

YOU GOT THIS. JUST GET YOUR ASS BACK TO THE GYM.

I WAS HOPING YOU'D HOLD ONTO THIS FOR HER

IT WAS MOM'S.

AND GRAN'S AND GG'S BEFORE THAT

I FEEL LIKE THE NEXT KICK-ASS LADY KAMAL SHOULD HAVE IT

YOU'RE AN HONORABLE MARTIAN, ALEX THEY'D BE **PROUD.**

THANKS

LET'S GO, KIDDO.

WANNA RIDE ON MY SHOULDERS?!

NO.

LOOKS GREAT IN HERE

I KNOW THIS PLACE HAS HISTORY FOR YOU BUT WE SHOULD TAKE MY DAD UP ON HIS OFFER

HOW LONG 'TIL I GET TA SHARE MY ROOM?

ONLY ABOUT TWENTY SLEEPS

THAT SOUNDS LONG

IT'LL GO BY IN A JIFF.

I CAN SHOW HER MY SHIPS

LIKE I'LL FLY SOMEDAY!

WHY DOESN'T YOUR DAD TELL YOU A BEDTIME STORY?

TELL A BATTLE STORY!

WELL, LET'S SEE

ONCE UPON A TIME

"WE WERE ON PATROL AROUND JUPITER

"YOU **KNOW**, JUPITER IS **SO** BIG MARS COULD FIT INSIDE IT 8,750 TIMES."

"HUH?"

"**AND** IT HAS OVER SIXTY-SEVEN MOONS!"

NOOO. TELL ME A STORY.

RIGHT OKAY

"I WAS FLYING THE MCRN FERDOWSI ON PATROL

"SUDDENLY WE INTERCEPTED THE DREADED **PIRATE** SHIP CTHULHU."

"REALLY?"

"THEY'D STOLEN A BUNCH OF SECRET MARTIAN INTEL. OUR MISSION WAS TO GET IT BACK."

"WHEN THEY CAUGHT WIND WE WERE ON THEIR TAIL THEY FIRED THEIR MASSIVE RAIL GUNS AT US.

"THAT TOOK OUT ONE OF MY BROADSIDE THRUSTERS

"BUT I WENT AFTER THEM WITH NO TIME TO LOSE!"

"THEY WERE IN MY SIGHTS WHEN KLAXONS STARTED BLARING

"SUDDENLY THERE WAS A MASSIVE **DEBRIS FIELD** HEADED RIGHT FOR US!"

"WHAT'D YOU DO?!"

" I PULLED A MANEUVER CALLED THE **SCREAMING FIREHAWK!**"

"SCREAMING FIREHAWK?!"

"YEAH! I DOUBLE FLIPPED US OUTTA THE FIELD BY THE SKIN OF MY TEETH

" THAT BROUGHT THE FERDOWS! RIGHT UP ON THEM. THE CTHULU HAD NOWHERE TO HIDE!

"I GOT A LOCK AND FIRED!

"WE CAPTURED THE PIRATES AND GOT THE INTEL BACK."

"WOW!"

YEAH IT TOOK SOME CRAZY PILOTING TO GET US OUTTA THAT ONE

CAN I FLY WITH YOU?

I DON'T FLY ANYMORE

WHY?

SO I CAN BE HOME WITH **YOU** AND YOUR SISTER

WHY?

YOU DON'T LIKE TO FLY ANYMORE?

NO, I LOVE **LOVED**--

I'D **NEVER** QUIT FLYING!

I'M GONNA BE A FIGHTER PILOT **JUST** LIKE ZILLO!

HE'D NEVER QUIT FOR NO ONE

SOMETIMES THERE ARE THINGS **MORE IMPORTANT**--

KRASH THUD

ALEX...

ALEX!

STAY HERE

Sometimes it is those
dark and tragic things of all
magnitude, that push us
onto the roads we must
take...

I'M SO VERY SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS.

HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN AGAIN?

THERE'S NO WAY WE COULD'VE KNOWN.

I'VE REACHED OUT TO A COLLEAGUE ON GANYMEDE HOPING ADDITIONAL TESTS WILL GIVE SOME INSIGHT FOR NEXT TIME

GOOD NEWS IS YOU'RE HEALTHY AND STILL VIABLE

I'M GOING TO STAY WITH MY PARENTS FOR A BIT

BUT I'M HERE NOW, WHAT ABOUT WE—

I NEED TIME TO RESET THE WAY I'M USED TO.

SURE OKAY

WHATEVER YOU NEED

One week later.

WHY ISN'T SHE COMING?

DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG?

OF COURSE NOT PARDNER

SHE JUST HAS A FEW THINGS TO FINISH AMONGST THE STARS FIRST

LATER THAT NIGHT

DUTY TOGETHER WE BUILD.

HONOR TOGETHER WE RISE.

Ping Ping

ALEX?

YEAH

CTO COULD REALLY USE AN ACE PILOT FOR A CLEARANCE RUN TO TITAN.

I RECOMMENDED YOU.

ALEX?

I CAN'T.

ALEX. YOU HOME?

OH, ALEX.

JUST KEEP BREATHING

IT SHOULDN'T BE THIS DIFFICULT

WHAT DID I GIVE IT ALL UP FOR?

THERE'S STILL NOT EVEN ONE FAMILY PHOTO IN THIS HOUSE

DO YOU REMEMBER WHY YOU MARRIED TAL?

BECAUSE I LOVED HER

YOU LOVED FLYING

YOU MARRIED TAL BECAUSE DAD WANTED YOU TO

HE'S NOT HERE ANYMORE

YOU'RE MISERABLE

AND YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT

EVEN IF YOU'RE RIGHT SO WHAT?

MAYBE THIS IS A CHANCE FOR YOU TO FIGURE OUT WHAT YOU WANT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YOUR LIFE

THAT'S NOT VERY MARTIAN OF YOU.

Three weeks later.

THE DOCTORS SAY WE CAN START TRYING [redacted].

AND WE CAN ALWAYS GO TO GANYMEDE

I MEAN, IF IT COMES TO THAT.

DO YOU EVER THINK WE'RE JUST TORTURING OURSELVES?

THAT MAYBE MORE KIDS AREN'T IN THE CARDS FOR US?

NO. IT'S IN OUR BLOOD.

OUR DUTY AS MARTIANS

WE'VE HAD SOME SETBACKS.

BUT NEXT TIME WILL BE DIFFERENT

I CAN'T I'M SORRY.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU CAN'T?

I MEAN I DON'T WANT TO GO THROUGH THIS AGAIN

THIS LOSS. I GAVE UP THE ONLY IDENTITY

I DON'T WANT TO KEEP FIGHTING FOR SOMETHING I DON'T WANT.

I JUST DON'T THINK I'M CUT OUT TO BE A FATHER. I MEAN YOU'VE SEEN [redacted]

I LOVE YOU AND I LOVE MELAS. BUT.

I NEED TO FLY

AND I'M NOT SURE WHAT THAT MEANS FOR US ..

IT MEANS THERE'S NO POINT

NO POINT IN US.

CHAPTER_004

AMOS BURTON

WELLLLCOME BAAACK TO YOUR FAVORITE QUIZ SHOW!

ANSWER MY QUESTIONS BEFORE THE CHIME! BECAUSE IT'S..

TURN BACK THE TIME!

LET'S MEET OUR SPECIAL GUEST TODAY!

AAAAAMOS BUUUURTON!

AMOS IS CURRENTLY A MECHANIC ON THE BELTER SHIP, THE NOKOTA SIOUX, OUT NEAR SATURN, ARE YOU? HE ORIGINALLY HAILS FROM BALTIMORE, MARYLAND!

AN EARTHER, FOLKS!

LET'S GIVE IT UP FOR AMOS BURTON!

REMEMBER, YOU MUST ANSWER TEN QUESTIONS CORRECTLY BEFORE YOUR TIME'S UP! IF YOU DO, YOU WIN! IF YOU DON'T

YOU DIE!

YOU DIE!

YOU LIVE!

YOU DIE!

YOU LIVE!

QUESTION: THE THEORY THAT THE UNIVERSE BEGAN 14 BILLION YEARS AGO WITH A MASSIVE EXPLOSION FROM A SINGLE POINT ENCOMPASSING ALL OF THE UNIVERSE'S MATTER IS THE **WHAT** THEORY?

[illegible]

BIG BANG! THE B G BANG THEORY!

SORRY, YOU'RE OUT OF TIME

?

BUZZ

IN SANSKRIT, THE WORD FOR "DRIFTING" OR "WANDERING" IS?

BUZZ

WHO WAS THE CHINESE GODDESS OF COMPASSION?

UH.

BUZZ

QUESTION: THIS ARGENTINIAN SURREALIST WROTE "FUNES" ABOUT A BOY WHO REMEMBERED EVERYTHING. THIS WRITER.

BORGES!

THAT'S CORRECT!

FOR A PLUS ONE BUMP WHAT WAS THIS WRITER MOST AFRAID OF?

1

MIRRORS

YES!

QUESTION: WHAT SWISS PSYCHOLOGIST USED INKBLOTS TO EXAMINE A PERSON'S EMOTIONS, ESPECIALLY PATIENTS OUT OF TOUCH WITH THEIR FEELINGS?

YOU DIE!

2

QUESTION: WHAT NUMBER QUESTION IS THIS?

SEVEN!

CORRECT!

QUESTION: YOU'RE A TRAIN CONDUCTOR AND YOU DISCOVER YOUR BRAKES ARE BROKEN. YOU SEE **FIVE WORKERS** ON THE TRACKS AHEAD. BUT YOU CAN SWITCH OVER TO ANOTHER TRACK WITH ONLY **ONE WORKER**

WHAT DO YOU DO?

UH SWITCH TRACKS?

DING DING

NOW, YOU CAN **PUSH** THIS PERSON DOWN AND DERAIL THE TRAIN, THEREBY SAVING FIVE PEOPLE'S LIVES. IT'S STILL SACRIFICING ONE TO SAVE FIVE BUT NOW,

IT'S **MURDER.** WHAT DO YOU DO?

DEPENDS WHO'S ON THE BRIDGE

THAT'S **CORRECT!**

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU'VE WON A **BONUS ROUND!**

AFTER WATCHING THIS CLIP YOU'LL BE ASKED THREE QUESTIONS. ANSWER ALL THREE AND YOU WIN AND **LIVE!** BUT IF YOU GET EVEN ONE WRONG, YOU LOSE ALL YOUR POINTS!

LET'S TAKE A LOOK!

NOT BAD YOU'RE A QUICK STUDY, BURTON

YOU COULD BE CHIEF MECHANIC ON A LEGIT SHIP.

I LIKE IT **HERE.**

SHE'S KNOWN AS THE "ROBIN HOOD" OF THE OPA, STEALING FROM INNERS AND GIVING TO BELTERS. QUESTION: WHO IS SHE?

CORRECT! LET'S HAVE THE NEXT CLIP!

CAPTAIN JODI

YOU SAID WE'D KEEP **HALF!**

THESE POOR ROCK-HOPPERS'LL DIE WITHOUT OUR HELP

I WANT WHAT'S **OWED** ME. DIDN'T SIGN UP TO BE IN RED.

THERE A PROBLEM?

NOT YET

WE SICK'A DOLING OUT ALL THE SPOILS. NOW, WE IN CHARGE WE KEEP FULL RAKE!

LOOKS LIKE A HAIRY SITUATION! SECOND QUESTION: WHAT IS THE PROBABILITY YOU SURRENDER?

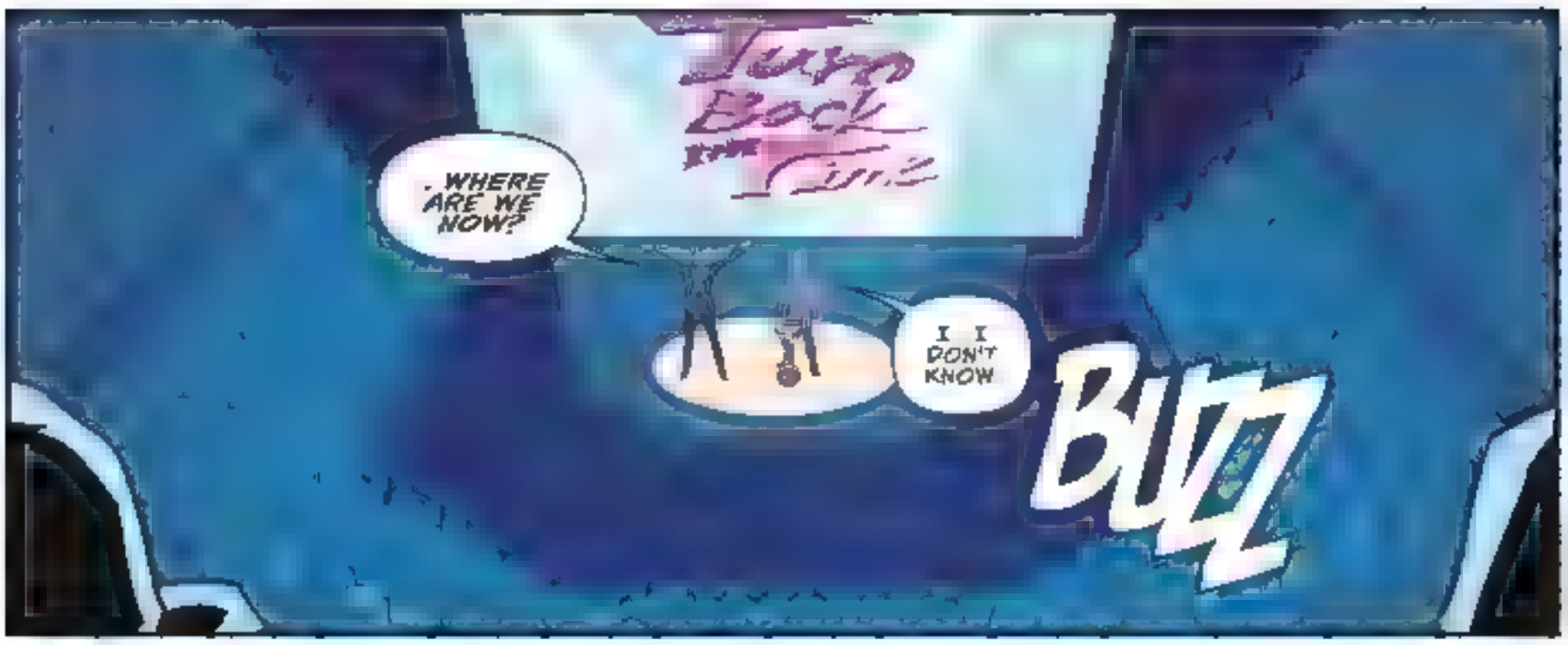
ZERO.

CORRECT! LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

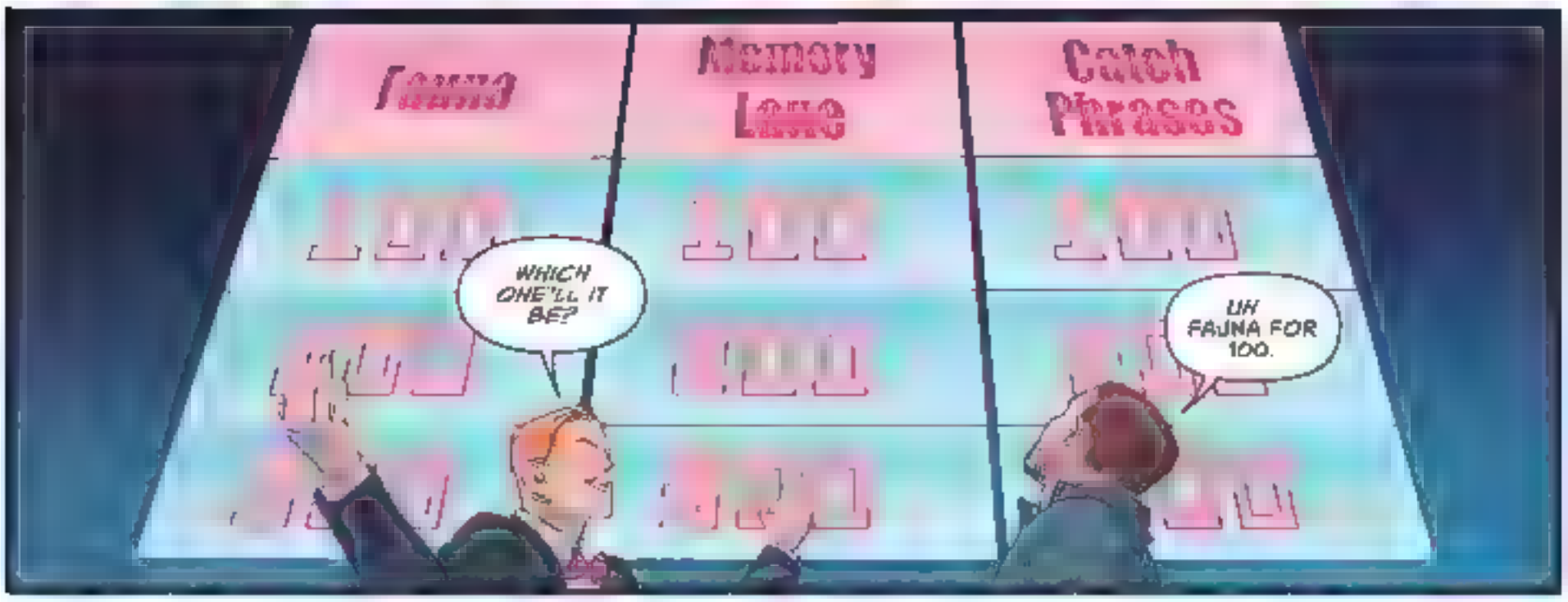
THOK

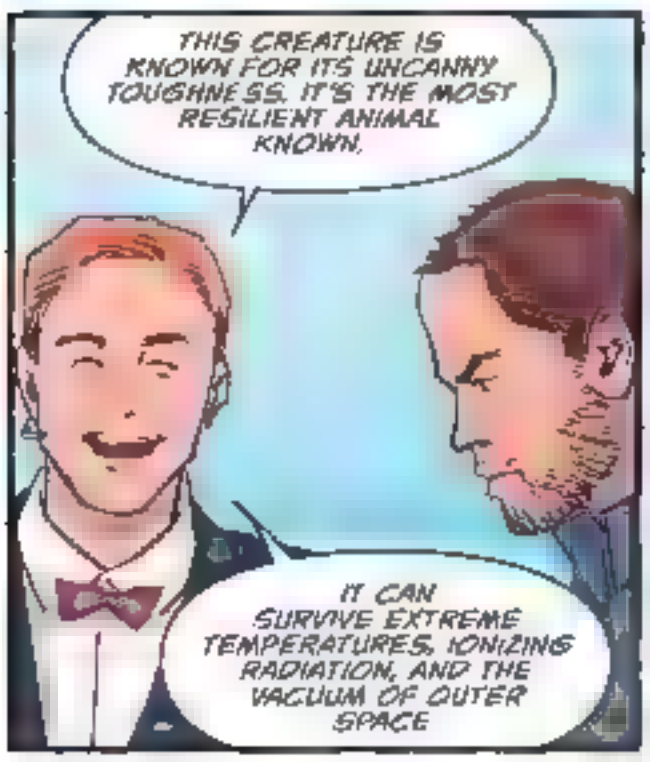
:UMMPH:

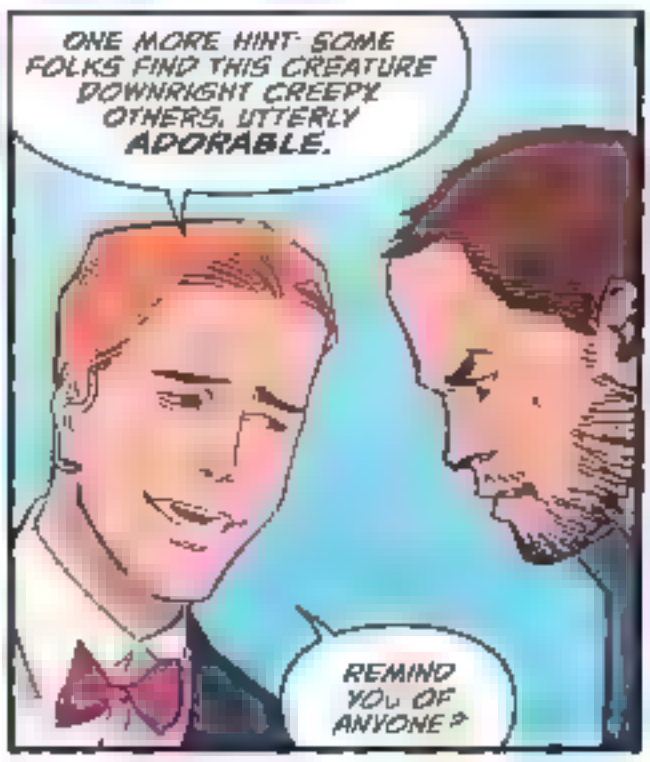
OUCH! FINAL QUESTION: IF YOU ARE OVER THERE ON THE NOKOTA SIOUX, THEN...


Turn Back the Time
WHERE ARE WE NOW?
I I DON'T KNOW
BUZZ

I'M SO SORRY! YOU WERE SO CLOSE!
TIME FOR OUR NEXT QUIZ: TRIVIAL TRIVIA!


Fauna
Memory Lane
Catch Phrases
WHICH ONE'LL IT BE?
UH FAUNA FOR 100.


THIS CREATURE IS KNOWN FOR ITS UNCANNY TOUGHNESS. IT'S THE MOST RESILIENT ANIMAL KNOWN.
IT CAN SURVIVE EXTREME TEMPERATURES, IONIZING RADIATION, AND THE VACUUM OF OUTER SPACE


ONE MORE HINT: SOME FOLKS FIND THIS CREATURE DOWNRIGHT CREEPY. OTHERS, UTTERLY ADORABLE.
REMIND YOU OF ANYONE?

THE WATER BEAR! WHAT IS THE WATER BEAR!

THE CORRECT ANSWER IS THE **TARDIGRADE.** BUT YOUR ANSWER IS ALSO ACCEPTABLE! CONGRATULATIONS!

1

CATCH PHRASE FOR 100

THIS PHRASE IS USED TO DESCRIBE EXPLOITING PROSTITUTES UNTIL THEY GET PREGNANT, THEN PAWNING THEM OFF ON JOHNS WHO PREFER THOSE IN THE "FAMILY WAY" AND WHEN THE KIDS COME OUT, THEY GET USED, TOO.

WHAT IS THE **HOOKER SQUEEZE.**

CORRECT!

MEMORY LANE FOR 100.

2

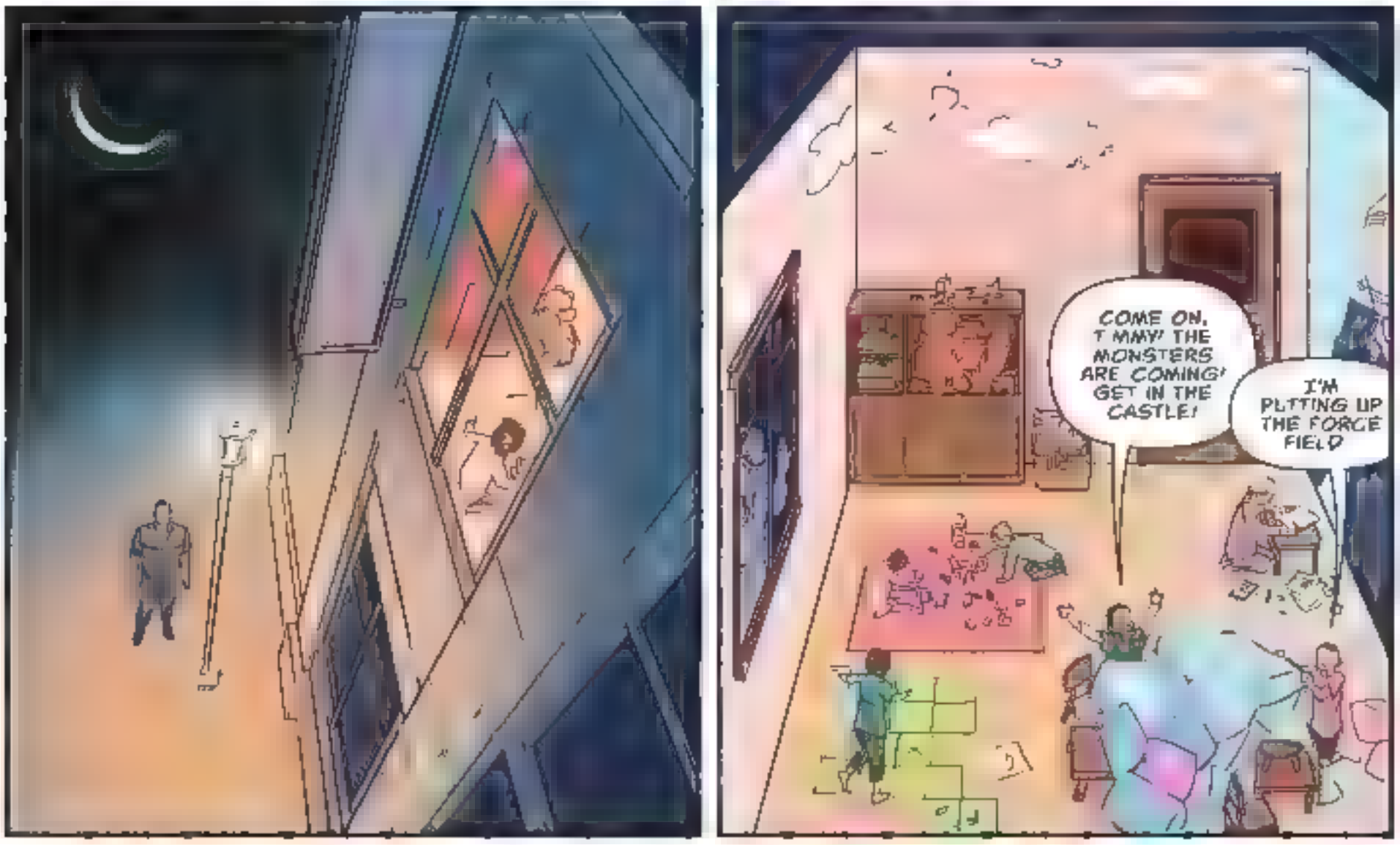
800 POINTS!

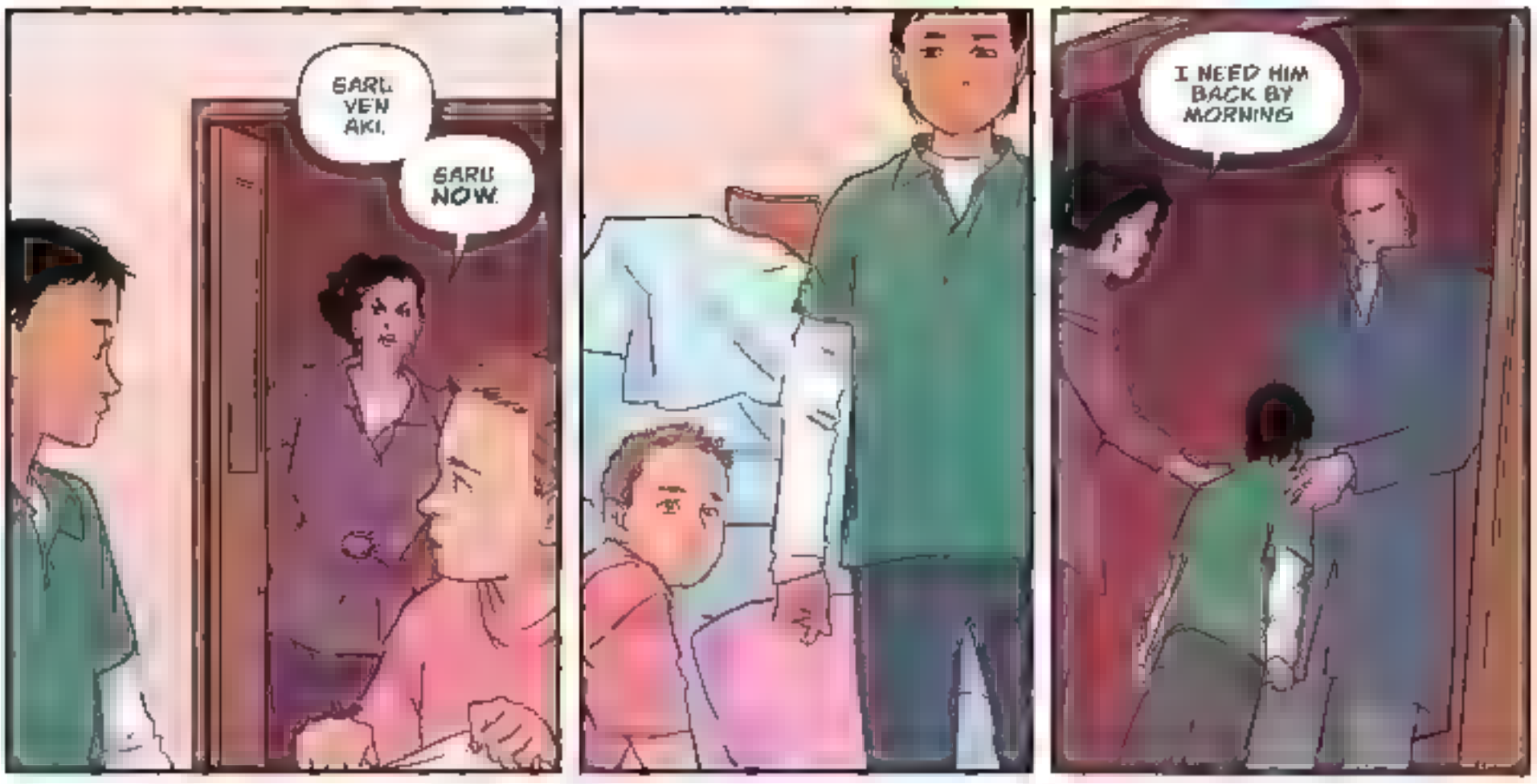
800 POINTS!

LUCKY YOU! A **BONUS** TILE!

GET THIS QUESTION RIGHT AND.

YOU WIN!


COME ON, TIMMY! THE MONSTERS ARE COMING! GET IN THE CASTLE!
I'M PUTTING UP THE FORCE FIELD


SARU VEN AKI.
SARU NOW.
I NEED HIM BACK BY MORNING

SARU.

NO, STOP!

THUD

THUD

ANSWER THIS NEXT ONE, AND YOU WIN A WHOPPING 300 POINTS AND WIN!

QUESTION! WHY WAS YOUR FRIEND SARU BANGING HIS HEAD LIKE THAT?

NO MORE GAMES.

POP

YOU **HAVE TO** WIN! TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

AND I MEAN THAT **LITERALLY**

I'M NOT THE ONE YOU NEED TO KILL! LET'S SHOW HIM WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE!

TICK TOCK TICK TOCK

UH-OH! INTO THE AIRLOCK YOU GO! BETTER GET THOSE LAST POINTS SOON!

IT'S CHOOSE OR LOSE TIME!

WIN THE WHOLE KIT-AND-CABOODLE BY CROSSING THIS SUPER EASY OBSTACLE COURSE

OR ANSWER THIS MEGA QUESTION.
WHAT DID THE PERSON WHO GAVE YOU THIS SAY WHEN THEY GAVE IT TO YOU?

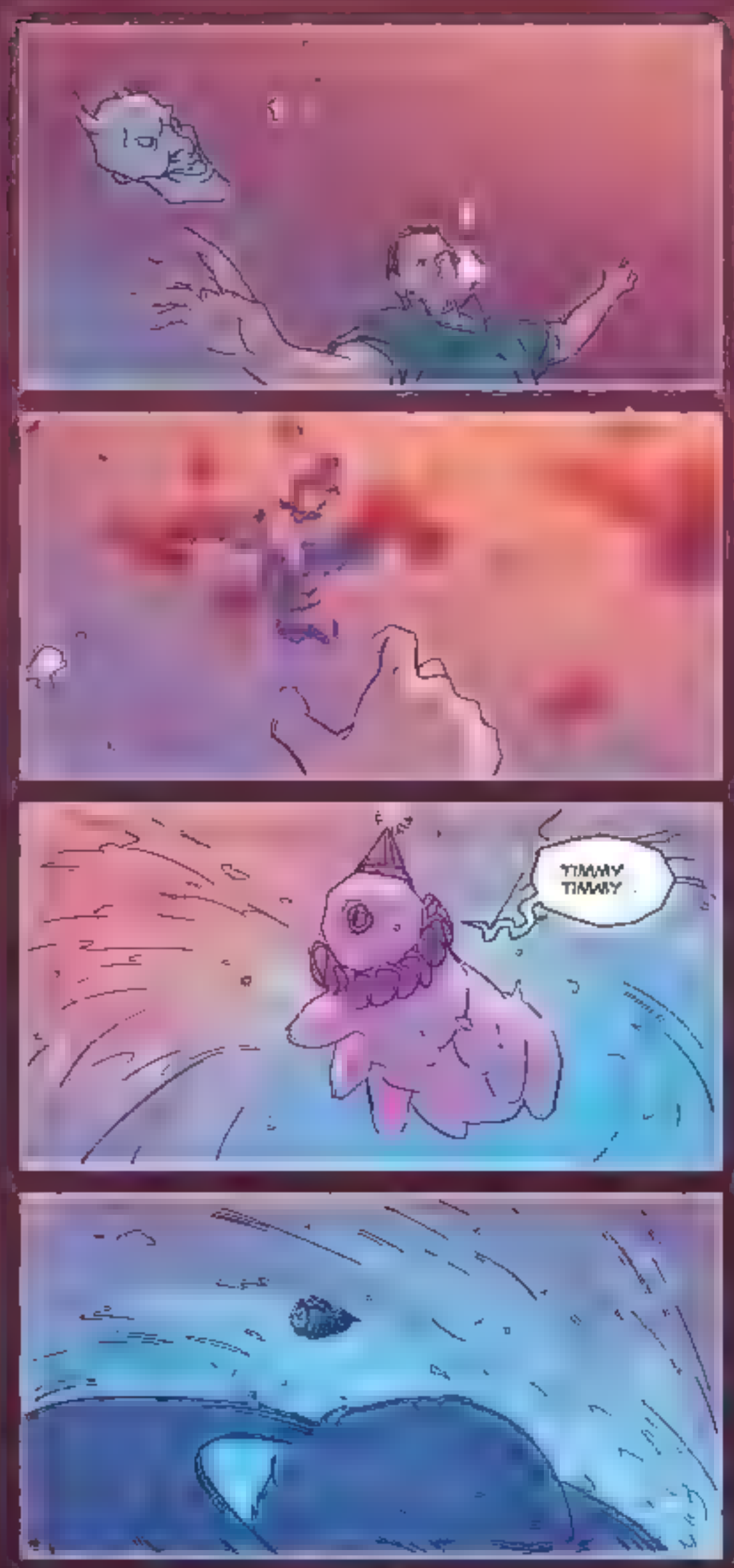
WHOA! LOOKS LIKE WE'RE IN FOR A SHOW TONIGHT!

FOLKS! IT'S THE SPIDER WALK!

AND MY PERSONAL FAVORITE **THE ROLLING ESCARGOT!** HOLD ON TIGHT, AMOS BURTON! HOLD ON TIGHT!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! HE'S GOING TO MAKE IT!

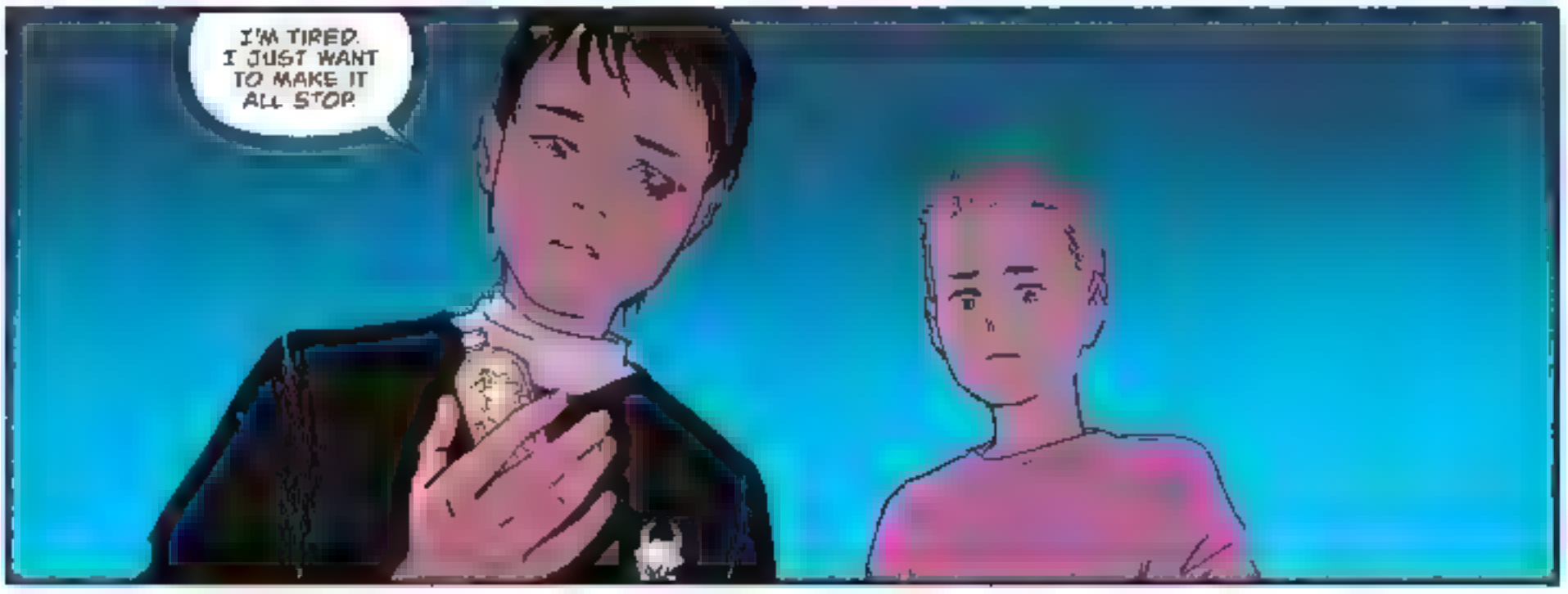
JUST ONE FINAL LEAP OVER THE **POOL OF TEARS!**

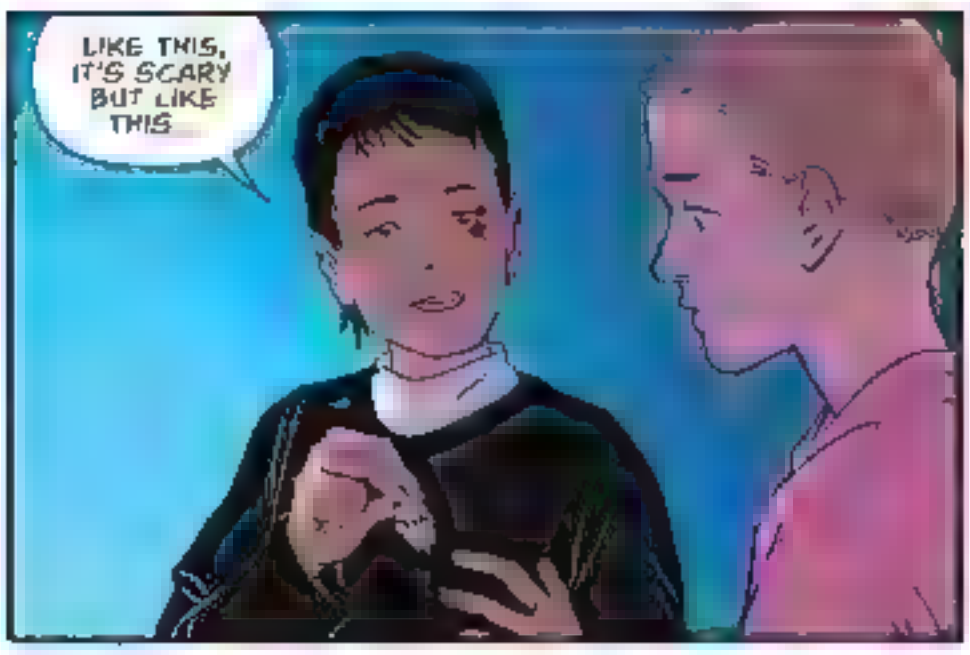


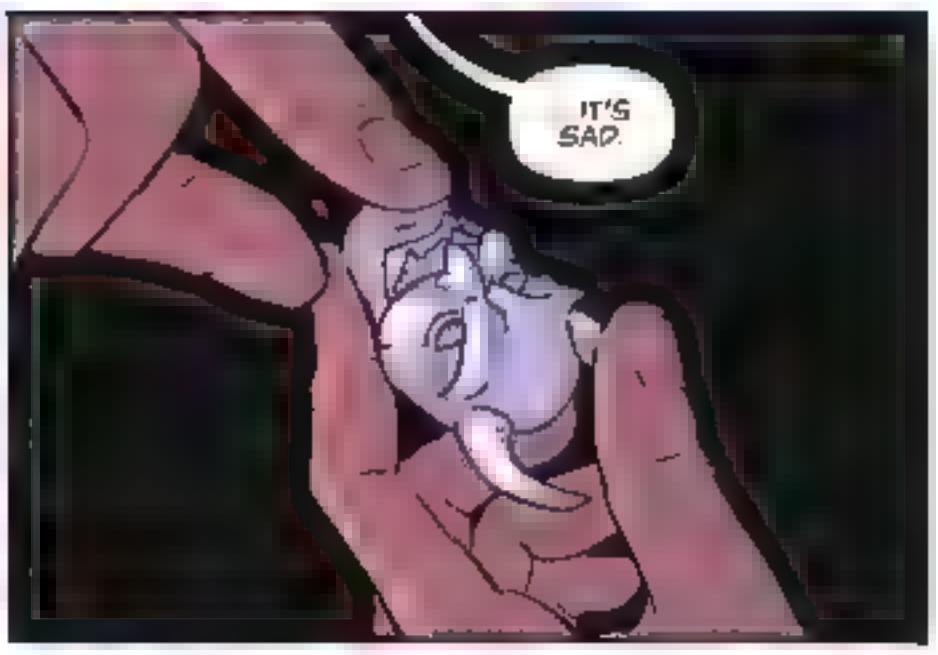
TIMMY
TIMMY

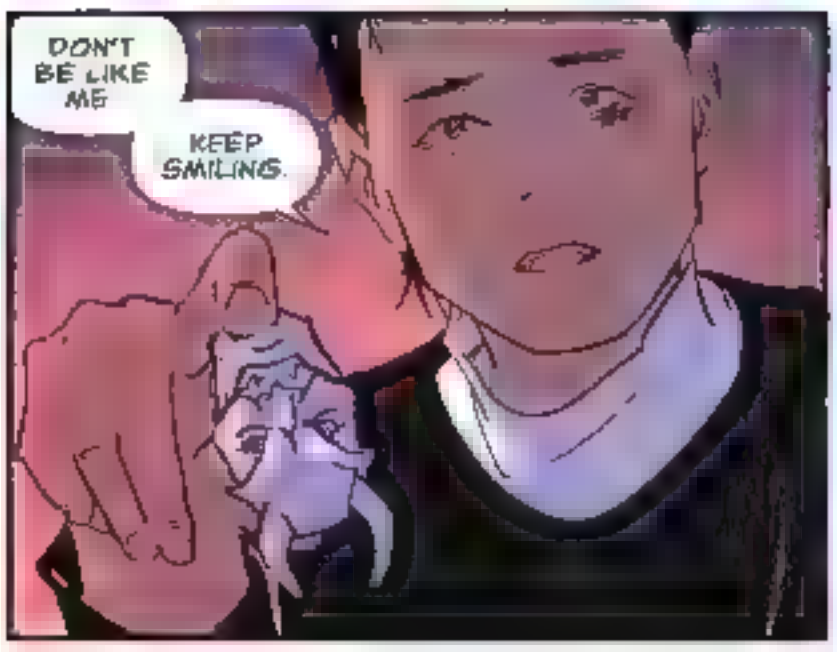
TIMMY.

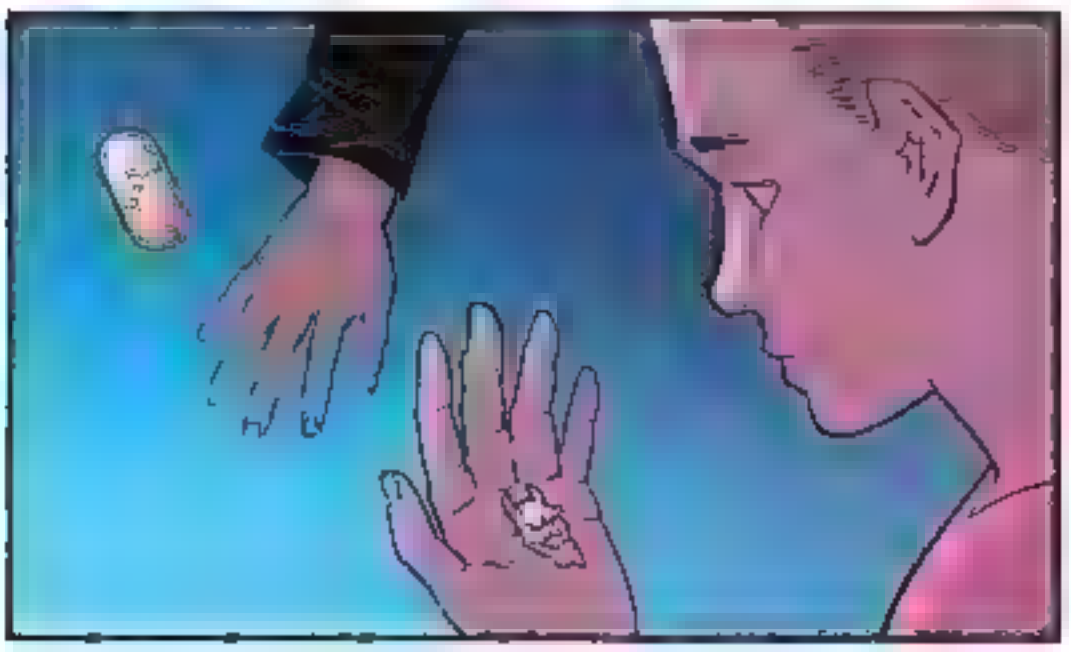
THANK YOU, TIMMY. FOR BEING MY FRIEND
WE CAN FIGHT THEM.


I'M TIRED. I JUST WANT TO MAKE IT ALL STOP.

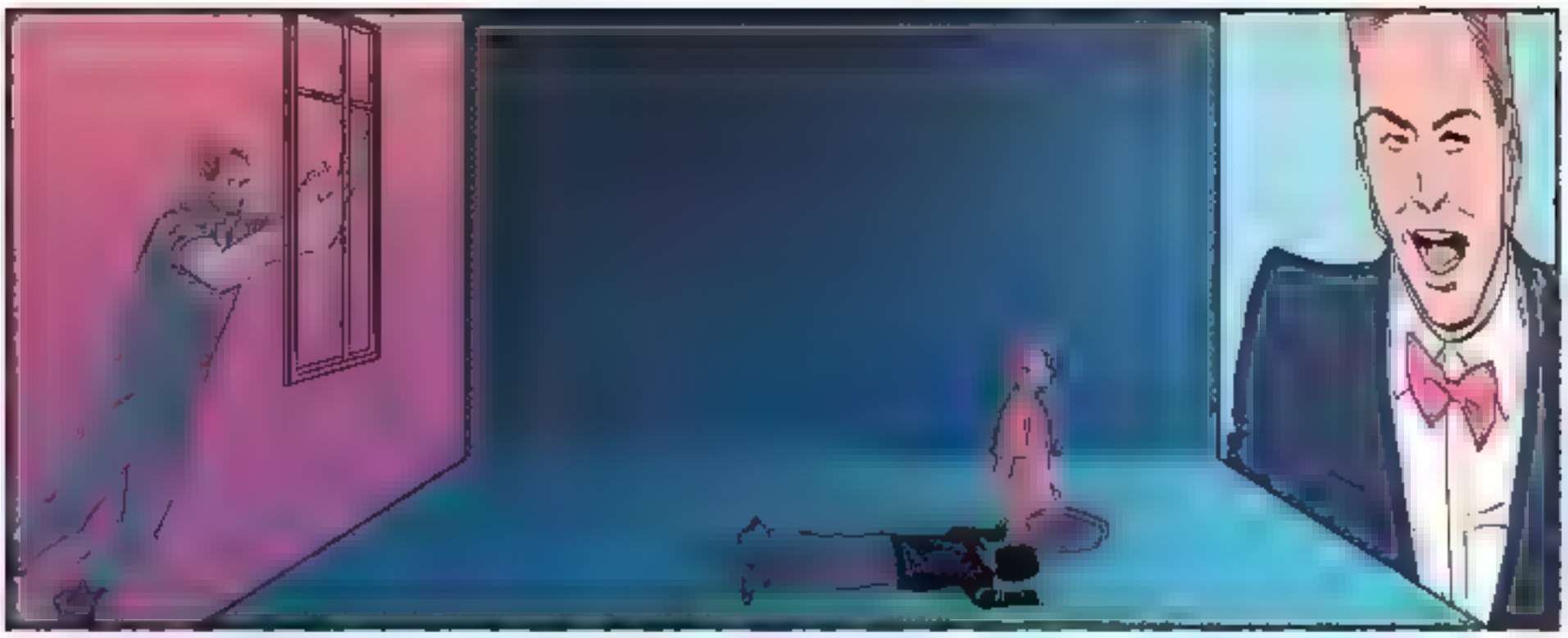

LIKE THIS, IT'S SCARY BUT LIKE THIS


IT'S SAD.


DON'T BE LIKE ME
KEEP SMILING.



WEEEEELCOME BACK TO YOUR FAVORITE QUIZ SHOW TURN BACK THE TIME!
KEEP SMILING.

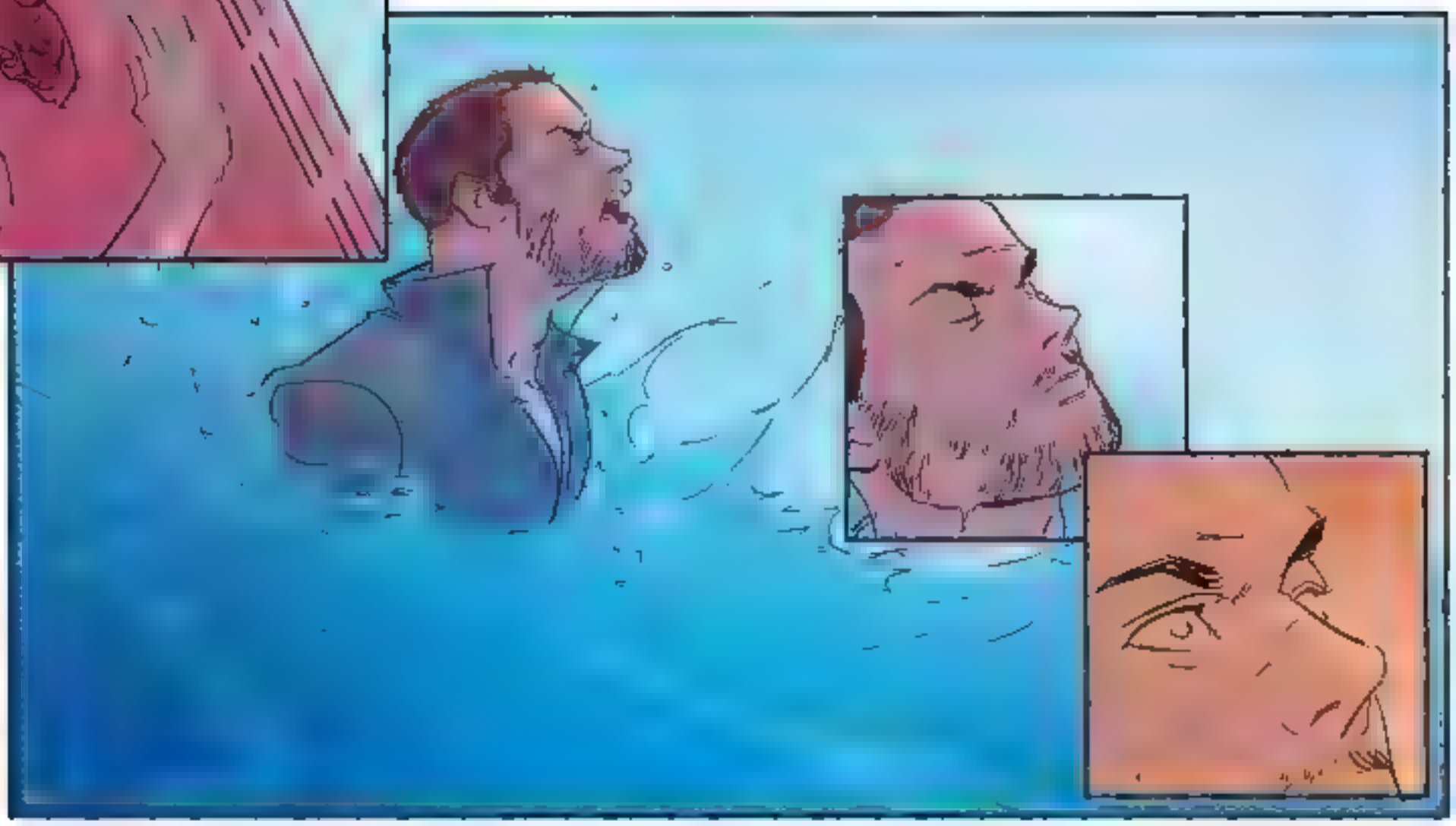


KEEP SMILING
KEEP SMILING!

THAT'S CORRECT!
YOU WIN! YOU'RE FREE! YOUR FINAL CHOICE:

DOOR ONE: MAKE IT ALL STOP THE ETERNAL SLEEP

OR DOOR TWO: WAKE UP AND FIGHT.



200

WHACK

WHACK

500

DING DING DING

1000

1000 POINTS! YOU WIN!

HOW CAN YOU WIN IF YOU DON'T PLAY? TRY TURN BACK THE TIME TODAY COULD BE YOUR LUCKY DAY!

KEEP SMILING.

CHAPTER_005

JOSEPHUS MILLER

EVERY TIME YOU REMEMBER SOMETHING

YOUR MIND CHANGES IT

JUST A LIL

UNTIL YOUR BEST AND WORST MEMORIES

BECOME YOUR BIGGEST ILLUSIONS.

Ceres.
Five years earlier.

VELOETA

I GREW UP BELIEVING IN THE INHERENT DARKNESS OF BEINGS

Midtown.

WHEN BASIC SURVIVAL IS A DIVE THROUGH LOKI PATERA, IT'S HARD NOT TO.

BUT I LEARNED YOUNG IT'S BETTER TO BE THE OPPRESSOR THAN THE OPPRESSED.

SO I BECAME A COP.

BUT **SHE** BELIEVED IN INHERENT GOODNESS.

AND WHEN SHE BECAME DETERMINED TO PROVE IT WAS **IN ME** TOO, SOMETHING CHANGED.

WE NEVER LOSE OUR DEMONS. BUT I WAS LEARNING TO LIVE ABOVE MINE

I CAN SEE THE LIGHT IN YOUR EYES.

HOW BRIGHT?

SIRIUS.

AND HOW WOULD YOU KNOW?

BECAUSE IT'S SO BRIGHT IT REACHES THE LIKES OF ME?

BUUU

SO HOW'S THE KID DOING? GETTING HIM SET--

BEEP

DAMN ANOTHER BODY DUMP AT AN L3 RECYCLER

ARIAGA?

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

TWO MID-LEVEL RUNNERS. BRUTAL

WELL, ARIAGA CAN'T HIDE FOREVER

THINGS ABOUT TO CHANGE LET'S GO I'M STARVING

STAR HELIX SECURIT

BEEP

GOTTA TAKE CARE OF SOMETHING. COVER ME

WHAT ABOUT

PROMISE TO FILL YOU IN.

I HATE IT WHEN YOU DO THIS, MILLER!

I KNEW SHE WORRIED ABOUT ME BUT THERE WERE SOME THINGS I DIDN'T THINK SHE WAS READY FOR

Medina Level

HEY, HELIX. NEED A DATE?

NO TAKI, COYO

BELTERS ARE BORN IN THE DARK, SEARCHING FOR **OTHER** WAYS TO SEE

MY FRIEND SEMI GAVE **ME** A SHOT. NOW IT WAS MY TURN.

OYE DAT YOU, MILLER?

YOU GOT IT?

JAX HAD GUTS HE SOUGHT ME OUT.

WANTED TO BE STAR HELIX SO WE MADE A DEAL

THIS'LL GET YOU THROUGH INNER DOORS SA SA

MOST IMPORTANT, FREIGHT 31 WHERE THEY'RE BEING HELD.

WHAT'S THE LOAD?

SEVEN KIDS AND NINETY KILOS ARE GOING TO BUYER SHIPPING IN TONIGHT AT 2300.

THE KIDS ARE IN ROUGH SHAPE

JAX WOULD HELP ME TAKE DOWN THESE SEX TRAFFICKING SCUM, AND I'D GET HIM A ROOKIE SPOT

YOU DID GOOD.

ONLY COUPLE BELTALOWDA KNOW ARIAGA ON CERES

ARIAGA. I'D BEEN AFTER THAT BASTARD FOR YEARS.

HE WAS RARELY ON CERES IN THOSE DAYS. AN EXPERT AT FLYING UNDER THE RADAR WHEN HE WAS. THIS WAS MY CHANCE

THE TWO BODIES AT THE L3 RECYCLER? THOSE HIS?

YEAH. WERE TESTING TOO MUCH PRODUCT OR SOMTHIN

CUT OFF THEIR HANDS BEFORE HE KILLED THEM.

ARIAGA CALLED MARNY AND ME IN TONIGHT--

I'LL BE THERE KOWLTING GONNA GUT--

HE'S NEVER DONE THAT BEFORE WHAT IF HE SUSP--

I'VE GOT YOUR BACK, KID TRUST ME

I WAS JUST LIKE YOU ONCE

HE WAS ORPHANED WHEN HE WAS SIX

SO WHEN HE MET MARNY AND KIARA IN THE SAME SITUATION, THEY BECAME THEIR **OWN FAMILY.**

KIARA?

THINGS'LL BE BETTER SOON.

OYE HOW'S SHE?

SHE'D BE A LOT BETTER IF WE COULD GET HER INNERS' DRUGS

INNERS SOONER LET US DIE

'MEMBER WHEN WE WERE LIKE EIGHT AND SHE TRY TO STEAL THAT INNER'S SHIP.

SHE WAS GONNA FLY US TO TITAN.

SO WE COULD LIVE THE GOOD LIFE PICKIN' OFF'A TOURISTS

LUCKY WE DIDN'T END UP BARGE PRISONERS FOR LIFE

BENEFIT OF HAVING **ALWAYS** STUCK TOGETHER.

WAS GONNA [illegible] TO ETHERIA

RIGHT. WHERE YOU'D BE A QUEEN.

THEY EVENTUALLY FOUND THEMSELVES RUNNING FOR ARIAGA, AS MOST ORPHANS ON CERES DO.

GOTTA GET MOVIN', BERATNA CAN'T AFFORD TO KAKA THIS UP

BRING YA BACK SOME NOODLES AMOLOF

EVER WONDER WHAT THINGS'D BE IF WE'D GOTTEN OUT AS KIDS?

WHAT DA POINT?

DON KNOW. NO BE RUNNIN' FOR ARIAGA?

MAYBE BE HELIX, LIKE WE TALKED ABOUT

BE THE GOOD GUYS FOR ONCE AN TRY'N CHANGE THINGS FROM DA INSIDE?

AND HOW YOU THINK THEY'LL ACCEPT STREET RATS LIKE US?

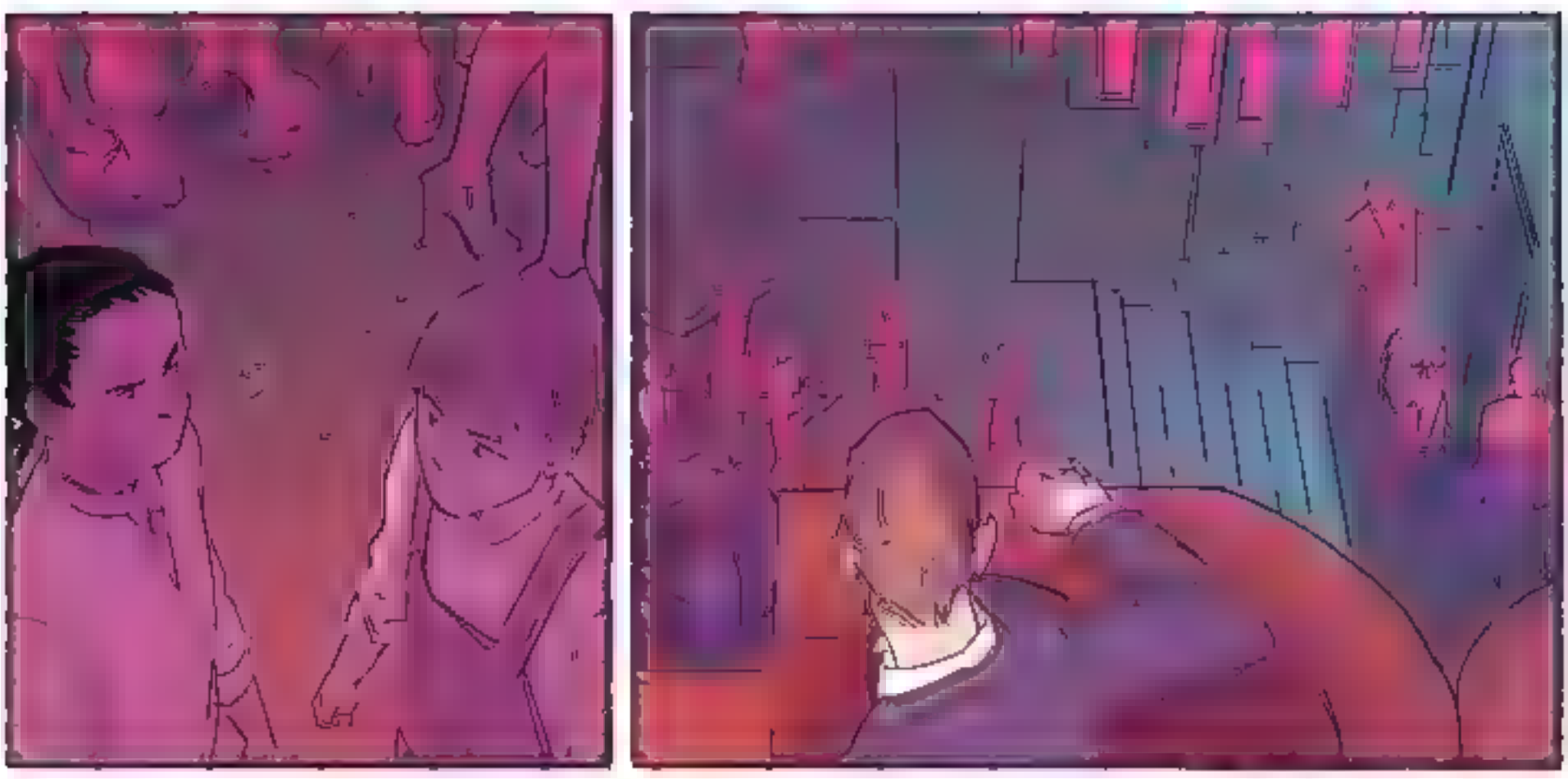
I KNOW SOMEONE WHO'LL HELP US -

NO-ONE EVER DID NO-TING FOR US FORGET YOUR STUPID HELIX

THIS IS IT ARIAGA'S PROMOTING US LIFE'S ABOUT TA START

SO YOU BETTER GET IN LINE

700



HAVE A SEAT, JAX.

WE DON HAVE TRUST, WE DON HAVE NOTING SA SA QUE?

COURGE KE

BUT YOU BETRAY ME TO STAR HELIX AND DON THINK I FIND OUT?

NO! I'D NEVER!

YOU A SNITCH TOO?

NO WAY! YOU KNOW--

YOU PUT ME IN A TOUGH SPOT HAD TO PUSH THIS DEAL UP CAUSE OF YOU.

THEY COMING FROM TITAN, THAT WAS NOT EASY.

AND MY HEART HURTS DON I TAKE CARE OF YOU?

WE A FAMILY HERE BUT FAMILY DON'T SNITCH.

YOU KNOW MARNY THE ONE TELL ME ABOUT YOU...

HE TRUE FAMILY, AND HE BE [redacted]—

MARNY? WHAT'S HE TALKING--

UZGUN I'M SORRY

BUT TO PROVE YOUR LEYALTING AND YOU NO RAT LIKE YOUR BERATNA HERE

...YOU TAKE HIM OFF THE BOARD.

WHAT? NO, BUT I'M THE ONE

MARNY? BUT HOW COULD YOU...

ONLY ONE OF YOU GO, OR BOTH. YOU CHOOSE.

FODAGUT! MARNY, IT'S ME, YOUR BERATNA.

WHAT ABOJT KIARA?

AND ETHERIA -

YOU STUPID TA THINK WE COULD'A BE SOMT'N' ELSE -

IT'S NOT TOO LATE--

BUT IT IS! WHY COULDN'T YOU JUST GO ALONG?

THIS ISN'T YOU -

YES IT IS DESH TIM DENIM MANG IM MOWSH LEVA SIF KOX

SORRY BERATNA, DID'N WAN IT'D COME TO THIS--

BANG

THIS WAS NOT PART OF THE PLAN

WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A SIMPLE RAID. I'D FINALLY GET ARIAGA.

.. RED HANDED. NO WAY HE'D BE ABLE TO SLIP AWAY AGAIN.

BUT IT WAS SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN AT 2300. NOT NOW

NOT WITHOUT BACK UP

DAMN IT, MARNX

:GHHNN:

AH, HELIX. LET'S SIT HAVE A DRINK.

WE CAN WORK SOMETHING OUT.

NOT THIS TIME, ARIAGA.

JUST A BUSINESS MAN. I'VE DONE NOTHING.

click

YOU STARTED TRADING PEOPLE

FUNNY WHERE WE DRAW THE LINE BETWEEN ACCEPTABLE AND UNACCEPTABLE

WAY I SEE IT, YOU GOT YOUR BAD GUY. HE SHOT YOUR FRIEND.

NOW TAKE HIM AND LEAVE ME OUT OF IT

HE'LL GET HIS YOU'LL GET YOURS

BUT THE KID MAY STILL HAVE A CHANCE

YOU DON'T

I'M TIRED OF DOING THIS, MILLER

THUD THUD THUD

HELP!

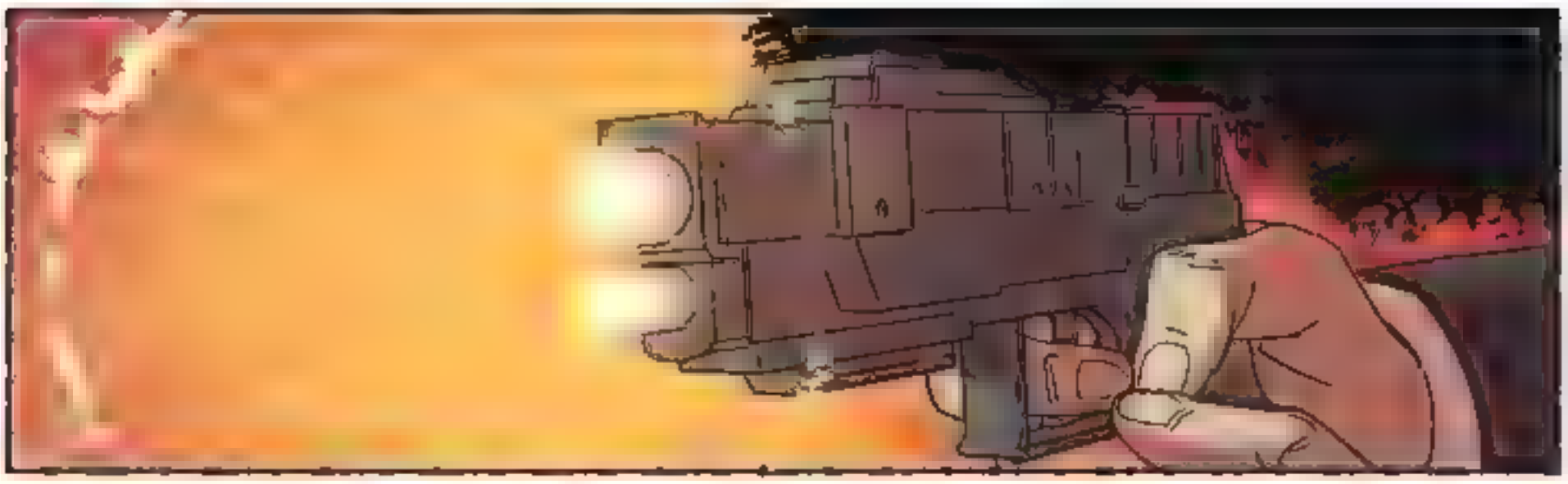
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME

I HAVE WORK.

HELP!

I'D FAILED JAX.

BUT I DIDN'T HAVE TO FAIL THOSE KIDS UPSTAIRS.



SO I DID WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE

HE WASN'T THE FIRST AND WOULDN'T BE THE LAST
BUT HE WAS SIGNIFICANT.

HELP

ARIAGA'S BIG FISH HAD GOTTEN AWAY WITH MOST OF THE DRUGS.

AND THREE OF THE KIDS.

DON'T SHOOT PLEASE

CRAZY THING.

THESE KIDS ARE THE LUCKY ONES

I'D FINALLY GOTTEN ARIAGA. BUT FELT LIKE I'D LOST.

MUSS I NEED YOU.

Ceres airlock.
Later.

YOU KNOW SHADDID'LL HAVE YOUR BADGE FOR THIS.

I'LL NEED A NEW ONE ANYWAY.

SHE WAS A RAY OF LIGHT AND I FELT LUCKY TO EVEN BE IN HER SHADOW.

BUT SHE SHOULDN'T HAVE WASTED HER TIME ON ME

JUST LIKE JAX SHOULDN'T HAVE PUT HIS TRUST IN ME

SORRY, MILLER HE WAS A GOOD KID IN A HARD SITUATION

TRYING TO DO SOMETHING BETTER WITH THE SHIT DEAL HE WAS HANDED.

JUST LIKE YOU--

-AND I WAS THE ONE IN HIS WAY.

YOU WEREN'T--

HE WAS THERE BECAUSE OF ME.

YOU'D NO WAY OF KNOWING MARNY WOULD SELL HIM OUT

I WOULD'VE IF **YOU** HADN'T GOTTEN ME SEARCHING FOR THE **LIGHT** IN PEOPLE. I SHOULD'VE SEEN IT

LOOK, WE CAN ONLY DO THE BEST WITH WHAT WE'RE HANDED

AND YOU'RE PROOF THERE'S HOPE FOR OTHER KIDS LIKE HIM.

SAYS AN UPTOWN RICH GIRL--

--BORN WITH **NO REAL IDEA** WHAT IT TAKES TO BREAK FREE.

I'VE FOUND THAT BATTLING YOUR OWN DEMONS CAN CAUSE TEMPORARY ALEXITHYMIA.

THE BATTLE LINE BETWEEN LIGHT AND DARK--

--RUNS THROUGH THE HEART OF **EVERY** SOUL, MILLER.

*I WISH I'D KNOWN THAT **THEN**.*

AND WE CHOOSE HOW WE DECIDE TO FIGHT.

I CHOSE TO DO MY FIGHTING HERE AND WITH YOU.

DON'T GET IN YOUR OWN WAY AGAIN.

WELL, WE GOT 'EM.

YOU DID GOOD--

AND I'M SORRY.

SORRY I DIDN'T DO BETTER

IT'S HARD TO HOLD ONTO THE LIGHT

WHEN WE LIVE IN THE DARK

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